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MOTHERS' ALLOWANCES LEGISLATION IN CANADA

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MEMORANDUM NO. 1
Social Security Series
Revised Edition

RESEARCH DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

Ottawa
January 1955

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MOTHERS' ALLOWANCES LEGISLATION IN CANADA

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PREFACE

This study of Mothers' Allowances legislation in Canada is a revision of a bulletin published in 1949. Since that time Newfoundland has introduced a mothers' allowances program and all other provinces have made important changes in coverage, eligibility, or rates of allowances. The material in the present bulletin deals with the legislation at the end of 1954.

As in the earlier edition, this volume describes the program in each province in terms of administration and financing, coverage, rates of benefit, and special services. The general review has been somewhat extended to permit a brief historical note and a fuller discussion of the characteristics of the various programs.

In presenting this study, we wish to express our appreciation to the Deputy Ministers and other officers of provincial departments of welfare for their co-operation and assistance in supplying information and in reviewing the provincial chapters and appendix in draft.

This bulletin was prepared in the Research Division by Mr. Donald H. Gardner under the direction of Mrs. Flora E. Hurst, Supervisor of the Welfare Section.

Joseph W. Willard,
Director, Research Division.

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PART 1 GENERAL REVIEW OF PROVINCIAL PROGRAMS

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PART I GENERAL REVIEW

Aid to certain needy mothers and their children is provided by Statute in all provinces. These programs are the result of developments extending over almost 40 years. During this time, mothers' allowances' Acts were passed in each province and the legislation was gradually extended and liberalized in terms of coverage, means test provisions, rates of allowance, and welfare and other services. While the earlier statutes provided chiefly for mothers whose husbands were dead or incapacitated, they may now provide for mothers in need because of a variety of other circumstances, such as desertion or committal of husbands to penal institutions. In 1954, more than 39,500 families with some 107,300 children were assisted under these programs at a cost in allowances of over $21,578,000.

Historical Note

The beginnings of mothers' allowances legislation in Canada may, in part, be traced back to the White House Conference of 1909 on Care of Dependent Children at which the principle was enunciated that children should not be removed from their homes and that family relationships should not be destroyed because of economic need alone. Following the Conference, movements to introduce mothers' allowances, or mothers' pensions as they were then more commonly called, took form both in the United States and Canada. The first legislation on this continent was passed in the United States by Missouri and Illinois in 1911.1/ In Canada, the legislation was initiated by the Province of Manitoba where the movement for mothers' pensions was promoted by a number of voluntary groups from 1910 until the Mothers' Pension Act was passed by the provincial legislature in 1916. Similar concern for needy mothers in other provinces resulted, between 1917 and 1920, in the passage of mothers' allowances legislation in Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, and Ontario. In the remaining provinces similar statutes became effective in Nova Scotia in 1930, in Quebec in 1938, in New Brunswick in 1943, and in Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland in 1949.

As well as the growing recognition of the importance of family life to child development, the existence of aid to some needy mothers under workmen's compensation laws

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1/ Among the first programs introduced outside of North America were those in New Zealand in 1912 and Denmark in 1914.

in a number of provinces prior to 1920, and of provisions for the widows and children of the veterans of World War I also appear to have favourably influenced opinion regarding mothers' allowances. Other factors which were discussed in the early literature as evidence of the desirability of this legislation included the reduction of infant mortality, the improvement of child health, and the educational needs of children. Also, the view was widely held that mothers in need could not be adequately cared for by private philanthropy and should not be dependent upon the undifferentiated local relief programs characteristic of that period; because of their important role in bringing up their children, mothers should, instead, be assured of assistance granted under statutory authority and based upon province-wide standards. Mothers' allowances were thus the first of the provincial categorical programs to be established in Canada for the financial assistance of special groups of needy persons.

General Characteristics

In common with other categorical programs, mothers' allowances have well-defined conditions of eligibility. In all provinces applicants must meet certain property and income tests, and residence requirements. Generally, also, the categories of mothers who may be eligible are defined in some detail. Specified maximum rates of allowances are usually set out. The actual amount of the allowance is determined by the resources and size of the family unit. Counselling and health services, in provinces where these are provided, are generally made available to eligible dependents as well as to the mother.

Within this framework, the programs vary considerably from province to province in terms of the categories of mothers covered, the qualifying ages of children and other eligibility requirements. The following is a general description of the programs in the ten provinces at the end of 1954.

LEGISLATION

In Manitoba statutory provisions governing the mothers' allowances program are embodied in the Child Welfare Act and in Saskatchewan in the Social Aid Act and Regulations. The legislation in other provinces is set out in separate Acts.

While allowances in Newfoundland are paid under the Mothers' Allowances Act described in this bulletin, the provisions of this statute have been largely incorporated in the new Social Assistance Act, 1954, to become effective April 1, 1955. The new Act will gradually supersede existing legislation.1/

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCING

Provincial mothers' allowances programs are administered in each province by a public welfare authority responsible to the Minister of Welfare or of Health and Welfare, as the case may be. With the exception of Newfoundland and Quebec, this authority rests upon the director of a division or branch within the department concerned. In Newfoundland the program is administered by a Mothers' Allowances Board appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council and in Quebec by the Needy Mothers' Assistance Bureau. There is a slight variation in Saskatchewan; although the program is administered by the Director of Public Assistance, no allowance may be paid or withdrawn without the approval of the provincial Social Welfare Board.

The legislation of four provinces, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and British Columbia, provides for the appointment of an advisory Commission to consider applications and to advise the Director concerning the eligibility of applicants and the amount of allowance which should be granted. The Commissions, members of which serve without salary, have also general advisory functions under the Acts. In Nova Scotia and New Brunswick two of the minimum number of three members must be women, while in British Columbia the majority of members must be women. In the latter province an Advisory Commission is not at present functioning. In Alberta, Manitoba and Nova Scotia, the legislation provides for the appointment of advisory committees at the local level, but this provision appears to be little used except in Alberta where local welfare officers are appointed.

Applications for allowances are generally investigated by provincial authorities and through district offices where these have been established. In Alberta, this is done by local investigators appointed by the municipalities under the Act. Family counselling, where

1/ See footnote 1 page 17.

this is provided, and investigations are in some provinces carried out as part of a generalized field service whereby field staff have responsibility for services under more than one program.

Mothers allowances are non-contributory programs and, except in Alberta, the costs of administration and of allowances are met entirely by the provincial governments from funds appropriated by the legislatures. In Alberta the municipality of residence is required to refund to the Provincial Government 20 per cent of the monthly allowance less an amount of up to $10.

The costs of supplementary aid, where it is provided, may be borne totally by the province or may be shared by the province and the municipalities of residence under the general assistance program.

ELIGIBILITY: COVERAGE

In all provinces, the allowance may be paid to mothers, including adoptive mothers and step-mothers, who have one or more children of qualifying age and who, deprived of the breadwinner, are unable to provide for them adequately without assistance. Eligible mothers in all provinces include widows, mothers whose husbands are in some way disabled and, with the exception of one province, deserted mothers. Other categories of mothers covered differ significantly but may, depending upon the province, include divorced, separated or unmarried mothers and mothers whose husbands are committed to a penal institution. Most provinces provide also for the payment of an allowance to a foster mother should the mother herself be unable to care for the children because of death, disability or absence from the home. In a few provinces a disabled father at home may, in the absence or disability of the mother, receive the allowance on behalf of himself and his children. In all cases the children must be in the care and custody of the mother or other applicant and unless temporarily absent from home for approved reasons, must be living with her.

CHILDREN

To qualify for an allowance in most provinces, a mother must have one or more dependent children under 16 years of age. In Manitoba, however, the eligible age is under 15 years and, in Newfoundland, under 17 years.

All provinces except Ontario, where allowances are normally payable until 18 years, encourage children to remain at school through an extension of the basic age. Thus, allowances may be continued, depending upon the province, until the end of the school year in which the sixteenth birthday falls, until the eighteenth birthday, or until the end of the school year in which the seventeenth or eighteenth birthday falls. In Newfoundland and Quebec, they may be continued until the age of 21 if a child is attending school or college.

Handicapped children are given special consideration in seven provinces where the legislation provides for the continuation of allowances beyond the eligible age. In Ontario, Manitoba and British Columbia they are continued until the eighteenth birthday and in Saskatchewan and Newfoundland until the 21st birthday. In Quebec there is no specific age at which a handicapped child becomes ineligible. In Nova Scotia a special allowance may be paid to a mother with a disabled child who is above the eligible age but not yet old enough to qualify for an allowance under the federal-provincial disability program. 1/

MOTHERS

Widows

Needy widows with one or more children of eligible age may qualify for the allowance in all provinces.

Mother with Disabled Husband

In all provinces a mother with an incapacitated husband may be eligible for an allowance; in Alberta, however, this eligibility is limited to a mother whose husband is committed to a mental hospital.

The nature, extent and duration of disability provided for show considerable variation. Thus, while the Acts and Regualtions in three provinces make no specific reference to the nature of the disability, in five they specify that it may be either physical or mental in nature. In one province the husband must be physically incapacitated or else committed to a mental hospital. With regard to extent of disability, in four provinces a mother may be eligible if her husband is totally disabled, while in five he must be 'unemployable' or

1/ The Disabled Persons Act, S.C., 1953-54, c.55; The Disabled Persons Allowances Act, S.N.S., 1954, c.11.

unable to support his family. With Respect to duration, of disability a mother may qualify for an allowance in five provinces if her husband is permanently disabled. Four provinces provide that the husband may be temporarily disabled but the disability must be expected to last a specified period of time.

Because the terms 'total' and 'permanent' are not always defined in detail, their exact administrative interpretation cannot be given here. However, the disability provisions respecting extent and duration may be briefly summarized as follows: in Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, and Manitoba, the husband must be permanently and totally disabled; in Nova Scotia, he must be permanently unable to support his family and, in Ontario, permanently unemployable. British Columbia specifies total disability but it may be temporary. In Newfoundland, Quebec and Saskatchewan, the allowance may be payable if the husband is unable to support his family because of temporary disability.

In addition to providing for disability as defined above, a number of provinces specify that a mother may receive an allowance if the husband is committed to a mental hospital or sanatorium for tuberculosis. With one exception there is no specified duration of illness in such cases. In most of these provinces, the allowance may be continued for a period following discharge.

Husband in Penal Institution

The legislation of five provinces, namely, Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Saskatchewan and British Columbia provides that a mother may be eligible for an allowance if her husband is committed to a penal institution. In Saskatchewan, Quebec and Prince Edward Island a sentence of one year or more is specified while in Newfoundland no definite period of detention is stipulated. In British Columbia he must be committed to a federal penitentiary.

While the Ontario Act does not contain direct provision for mothers with imprisoned husbands, consideration is given to applications from them under the clause providing for the granting of allowances in special cases.

Divorced and Separated Mothers

Mothers and children who have lost their breadwinner as a result of divorce may receive an allowance in Newfoundland, Ontario, Saskatchewan, and British

Columbia, if certain conditions are met. These relate generally to the length of time since divorce, to evidence of non-support and to ignorance of the husband's whereabouts. In British Columbia, for example, the divorce must have been granted at least two years before an application for mothers' allowances. In Newfoundland, Saskatchewan, and British Columbia, the mother must satisfy the authorities that all reasonable efforts to obtain support have failed. A woman granted a divorce in Ontario may be eligible if the court order did not provide for maintenance or if the father has failed to give support and has not been heard of for one year.

A woman legally separated from her husband may be eligible for an allowance in Newfoundland and British Columbia. In both provinces the legislation stipulates that she must have shown inability to gain support and, in the latter province, the separation must have been granted at least two years before application for an allowance. In certain other provinces separated mothers might receive an allowance if their circumstances are such as to meet the eligibility requirements for deserted wives.

In Quebec a divorced or separated mother may receive an allowance under the clause providing for assistance in special cases.

Deserted Mothers

Allowances may be paid to deserted mothers in all provinces except Nova Scotia. Generally the allowance is not available as immediate assistance but is paid only after desertion over a period of time has been established. Thus in Quebec, Ontario and Saskatchewan the mother must have been deserted for at least one year in order to be eligible. In Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and British Columbia the required period is two years, in Alberta, three years, and in Manitoba, four years. In Newfoundland, no required period of desertion prior to application is specified.

In all cases the mother must be without the support of her husband. In seven provinces the legislation specifically requires evidence of non-support and in five of these the authorities must be satisfied that all reasonable efforts to obtain support have failed. Three provinces specify that the whereabouts of the husband must be unknown and three require that he must not, as far as can be ascertained, be resident or own property in the province.

Unmarried Mothers

Allowances on behalf of unmarried mothers and their children may be paid in five provinces. In all cases the provisions include mothers who have been living in a common law or similar relationship with the father of the children and in two provinces they apply only to such mothers. In the case of common law wives, eligibility depends upon the existence prior to application of a more or less stable family relationship in which the mother and children depended upon the father for support. Thus in Newfoundland, Saskatchewan and Alberta, the father must be dead and the children registered in the father's name or he must have assumed responsibility for them. In British Columbia the mother must have cohabited with the father in the bona fide belief that she was married to him and eligibility arises because of his death, disability, desertion or committal.

Three provinces provide for the payment of allowances to unmarried mothers who have not been living in a common law or family relationship with the father of the child. In Newfoundland, the Director of Child Welfare must certify that an allowance is essential for the maintenance or rehabilitation of such a mother and child. In Saskatchewan, an allowance may be paid to an unmarried mother if an agreement approved by the Director of Child Welfare has been made with the father or if the Director of Public Assistance is satisfied that every reasonable effort for support has failed or if he is of the opinion that no effort should be made to obtain it.

In Manitoba, a child born out of wedlock may be enrolled if the conditions regarding the decease or disability of the father are met. Otherwise he may be enrolled with the approval of the Minister.

MOTHERS DISABLED OR ABSENT

Foster Mothers

The legislation in all provinces provides for the payment of an allowance to a foster mother on behalf of children deprived of parental care. In the majority of provinces such payments are made if the mother is dead or disabled; they are also made in some provinces if the mother is hospitalized or committed to a mental hospital or sanatorium, and also in Saskatchewan if she is committed to a penal institution. In British Columbia,

Manitoba and Quebec, foster mothers may receive an allowance on behalf of the children of mothers who themselves would have been eligible. In New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, it is specified that they are eligible only if the father is dead, disabled or committed to a mental hospital or sanatorium; and in Saskatchewan, if he is commited to a hospital, sanatorium, or a mental or a penal institution. In Newfoundland, the Act provides for payments to foster mothers on behalf of orphan children only, while in Ontario the legislation does not specify in what situtions foster mothers are eligible. Alberta provides for a somewhat different situation from those outlined above in that a foster mother is eligible only if her own husband is dead or committed to a mental hospital.

In general the legislation seems to stress the role of relatives in foster care. In some provinces the foster mother must be the grandmother, sister or aunt of the children, in others she may be a relative or other suitable person. In nearly all instances, the legislation stipulates that the foster mother must have the actual care and custody of the children and also lack the means, without an allowance, of caring adequately for them.

Fathers

If the mother is dead or is unable to care for the children because she is disabled or is absent from home under specified circumstances, the mother's allowance may in Newfoundland, Quebec and Saskatchewan be paid on behalf of himself and his children to a disabled father living at home. In Newfoundland, a father who is not disabled may also be eligible for the allowance if he is forced to remain at home because he is unable to obtain the services of a suitable person to look after the home.

ELIGIBILITY: GENERAL CONDITIONS

CHARACTER

The legislation generally stipulates that applicants must be of good moral character or suitable persons to care for the children. The Newfoundland Act does not contain any specific character requirement although it does provide that the allowance may be paid to a person other than the beneficiary should she not be a fit person to care for the children. Five other provinces also provide for the payment of an allowance to a person other than the beneficiary should the latter prove not to be of good moral character or incapable of using the allowance for the benefit of the children.

NATIONALITY

Canadian or British nationality is a condition of eligibility in six provinces, that is, in all provinces except Newfoundland, Ontario, Saskatchewan and Alberta. In Quebec, the mother must be a Canadian citizen by birth or marriage or must have been a Canadian citizen for fifteen years or be the wife or widow of a Canadian citizen. In Nova Scotia, the mother or person caring for the child must be a British subject and, in British Columbia, the mother may be eligible if she is or was a British subject by birth or naturalization. Prince Edward Island specifies that the child must be a Canadian citizen or British subject or that the mother must be a Canadian citizen. In New Brunswick, the child or the mother must be a Canadian citizen. Under the Manitoba legislation the child must have been born in Canada or the father must be a British subject; if the father is dead the mother must be a British subject. Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick specify, further, that the applicant must not be an Indian as defined by the Indian Act of Canada.

RESIDENCE

In all provinces applicants must meet specified residence requirements to establish eligibility. Except for the basic condition that mothers must be resident at the time of application and continue to live in the province with the children, these requirements are different in each province. They may relate to the length of residence prior to application, to residence at the time of the crisis leading to need, or to both.

The Newfoundland Act requires only that the mother be resident at the time of application and while in receipt of an allowance. In Quebec, Ontario and Saskatchewan a specified period of residence immediately prior to the application is stipulated. Alberta, on the other hand, requires no specified period of residence but the father must have been resident at the time of his death, desertion or committal to a mental hospital. In the remaining provinces, namely Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Manitoba and British Columbia, both types of requirement are applied: a minimum period of residence prior to application is necessary as well as residence either of the father or mother at the time of the father's death, disablement, desertion or committal.

The required period of residence also varies. In Ontario and Saskatchewan, one year is required and in Manitoba two years; in Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and British Columbia, three years are required and in Quebec, five years. In most provinces these requirements must be met by the mother, although in Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick the determining factor is the residence of the child if he is three years of age or over and in Manitoba it is the residence of the father or the child.

MEANS TEST

Assets

Although in all provinces applicants must prove need in order to qualify for an allowance, different methods are used in assessing need and in determining the amount of allowance to be paid. In dealing with real property, personal property and liquid assets, the majority of provinces limit the amount that applicants or beneficiaries may possess. A ceiling may be set upon the value of each of these types of asset or upon the combined value of two or all of them. In Saskatchewan, the permitted value of real and personal property and liquid assets increases as the size of family increases. In Alberta, no specified limit is placed upon the value of these assets, the value permitted depending upon the individual circumstances of applicants. In Nova Scotia, no allowance is payable if interest in real and personal property is of value sufficient for the maintenance of the child.

In three provinces a measure of control over the assets of applicants or beneficiaries is also provided for; in Saskatchewan, payment of an allowance may be deferred until excess assets have been used up at an approved rate or by approved necessary expenditure. In Manitoba, applicants may be required to pay cash assets to the Director, who releases enough to pay current liabilities; up to $2000 may be held in trust, while the remainder goes into the allowance. In Manitoba, also, a lien may be placed against the property of an applicant to the extent of the equity over $2000. In Ontario, assets above $1000 may be applied to a series of future payments for the maintenance of the children.

Income

With regard to income, the regulations in Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Saskatchewan, and Alberta specify a maximum permissible amount. If

applicants have income in excess of this, the allowance is reduced. In Prince Edward Island, the permitted amount of outside income varies according to the size of the family. In the remaining provinces there is no specified permissible income although the resources of applicants are taken into account in determining eligibility and the amount of allowance. In Manitoba and British Columbia, certain portions of outside income are deductible from the allowance. In determining need, a number of provinces specify that Family Allowances, casual gifts and gratuities and certain other allowances are not treated as income. In at least three provinces certain costs, such as housekeeper expenses incidental to the employment of the mother, are taken into consideration in assessing need.

ELIGIBILITY: EXCEPTIONAL CASES

The legislation in five provinces provides for the payment of an allowance, in cases presenting special circumstances, to needy mothers who are not strictly eligible under the terms of the legislation. These payments are generally authorized by the Lieutenant Governor in Council or the Minister, following investigation. This provision appears in the legislation of Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Ontario, and Manitoba.

RATES OF ALLOWANCES

Under all programs maximum family rates of allowances have been established. In all but one province these comprise rates for a mother with one child, additional amounts for each subsequent child and, in some provinces, for a disabled father in the home. Within these maximum rates, the actual allowance paid is determined on the basis of need after consideration of the applicant's resources. The majority of provinces provide, also, for the payment of supplementary aid under special circumstances. The supplementation may be met by the province or made available from social assistance funds with the cost shared by the province and the municipalities of residence.

In Newfoundland, the maximum monthly allowance is $25 for a mother and one child, with $5 payable on behalf of each additional child and $10 on behalf of a disabled father living at home. The maximum monthly allowance payable to any one family is $60 on behalf of a mother

and eight children or $70 if there is a disabled father at home. Supplementary assistance not exceeding $30 monthly may be granted if it is necessary for care and maintenance. In Prince Edward Island, a maximum of $25 monthly may be paid for a mother and one child and $5 a month on behalf of each additional child up to a maximum of $50 a month. In Nova Scotia, there is no fixed amount for a mother and one child or for each additional child. A maximum of $80 for a family is fixed by statute and the amount payable is determined by family need. An allowance of $40 a month may, however, be paid to a mother with one child if the child is disabled and over 16 but is not yet eligible for an allowance under the federal-provincial program for disabled persons.1/ In New Brunswick, the family maximum is $80 a month, with $35 for a mother and one child and $10 for each additional child. The Director may grant an additional $10 for rent if it is needed and if the allowance is below the family maximum.

The maximum monthly allowance in Quebec for a mother and one child is $35 in a district where the population is under 5,000 and $40 where it is 5,000 or over. An additional $1 per month may be paid for each of the second, third, fourth and fifth children, $2 for the sixth and seventh, and $3 for the eighth and each subsequent child. An extra $5 is allowed when the mother is unable to work or when a disabled husband is living at home. Beneficiairies whose income and allowance are insufficient to meet their needs may receive additional assistance under the Quebec Public Charities Act. Such assistance is paid through social agencies. The maximum for a foster mother is $20 monthly for herself and one child, with $5 for each additional child, the total allowance not to exceed the maximum for which the mother would have been eligible. Ontario pays a maximum of $50 a month for a mother and one child with $10 for each additional child and for a disabled husband at home. The allowance may be increased by $20 a month where need is evidenced and a winter fuel allowance of up to $24 monthly is also paid according to need. Ontario specifies a rate of $24 a month for a foster mother and one child, $48 for a foster mother and two children, with $10 for each additional child.

The maximum monthly allowance in Manitoba for a mother and one child is $51 a month. An additional $10 may be paid for a child aged 1 to 6 years of age, $13 for a child 7 to 11 years, and $15.50 for a child 12 to 14 years; $17.25 may be paid in respect of a disabled father in the home. The family maximum is $150 or, if there is a disabled father in the home, $167.25.

1/ Ibid.

Supplementary assistance up to $25 may be granted where necessary. In Saskatchewan, up to $35 may be paid for a mother and one child (up to $25 for a guardian and one child) with $10 for a second child, $5 for each subsequent child and $10 for a disabled father at home. The maximum allowance is $85 a month on behalf of a mother with ten or more children, or $95 if there is a disabled father at home.1/ Supplementary assistance under the Social Assistance program may be granted by the local municipality, the costs of which are shared on a 50-50 basis between the province and the municipality. The allowance in Alberta may not exceed $50 monthly for a mother with one child, $20 for the second child, $15 for the third and $10 for each additional child up to a maximum of $145 on behalf of a mother with nine children. Municipalities of residence may grant additional aid, 60 per cent of the costs of which are reimbursed by the Province.

In British Columbia the statutory maximum monthly allowance for a mother and one child under the Act is $42.50. This is increased by provincial supplementation from social allowance funds which brings the actual maximum monthly allowance payable to $69.50. Under the Act an additional $750 is payable on behalf of each subsequent child and for a disabled father living at home; this is similarly increased to a maximum of $14 by supplementation from social allowance funds. Additional supplementary assistance for emergency expenditures special dietary extras, prenatal allowances and housekeeper services may also be provided through social allowance funds; also, a nutrition allowance and other specified additional assistance are available for tubercular patients and their contacts. With the exception of prenatal allowances, which are paid fully by the Province, the costs of additional assistance are shared by the Province and the municipalities of residence on an 80-20 per cent basis.

SPECIAL SERVICES

WELFARE

In most provinces, field investigators visit recipients periodically. The number of visits required appear to vary from one to four annually. In Nova Scotia,

1/ In Saskatchewan, an increase of $5 per month per family will be effective April 1, 1955.

Saskatchewan, British Columbia, and possibly some other provinces, field work includes casework with families where this type of service seems to be needed. Quebec reports that families in need of such services are referred to appropriate social agencies.

HEALTH

In Nova Scotia, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, mothers' allowances' recipients and their dependents may benefit from special provincial medical care services designed for beneficiaries under various public assistance programs. Under these schemes, medical services in the patient's home or at the doctor's office, including some minor surgery, are made available in Nova Scotia and Ontario, while more comprehensive medical and surgical services, which are available in the home, office and hospital, are provided in the three Western provinces. These special programs are generally provided under pre-payment agreements with provincial medical bodies, and are chiefly financed by the provincial governments. Under various arrangements, dental, optical, pharmaceutical and certain other services are also available in several provinces. In British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan, recipients of mothers' allowances also benefit from the province-wide hospital care programs which have been established. In Newfoundland, mothers' allowances' recipients and their dependents receive hospital and medical services including surgery, obstetrical care, and some dentistry; these are provided under the Cottage Hospital Program, except in St. John's where other arrangements are made.

In Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Quebec, and Manitoba, there are no special provincial health care programs under which recipients of mothers' allowances may benefit. They may receive, however, such services as are available for needy persons generally, such as out-patient and in-patient care, and other community treatment services.

STAFF TRAINING

Of the seven provinces which provided information on staff training requirements, four reported that their mothers' allowances staffs are comprised chiefly of university graduates and graduates of schools of social work. Most of the seven provinces reported some in-service training. Two provinces stated that welfare staff may obtain leave of absence with financial assistance to attend a school of social work.

RECIPROCAL AGREEMENTS

The legislation in British Columbia, Alberta, and Saskatchewan provides for reciprocal agreements with other provinces for the payment of allowances to non-resident needy mothers. However, no such agreements are at present in effect.

PART II PROVINCIAL PROGRAMS

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N E W F O U N D L A N D

TITLE OF ACT[1]

The Mothers' Allowances Act, R.S.N. 1952, c. 63; as amended by S.N. 1953, No. 11; S. N. 1954, No. 9. Initial legislation was passed in 1949 and payment of allowances became effective as from February 1, 1950.

ADMINISTRATION

The Act is administered by the Mothers' Allowances Board which is appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council and is responsible to the Minister of Public Welfare. The Board determines the eligibility of applicants and sets the amount of allowance to be granted in each case. Subject to its right to rescind or alter any allowance, the decisions of the Board are final and not subject to review by any court of law or otherwise. The Board consists of three to five members who are appointed for one year and who, with the exception of the Chairman, serve without remuneration other than travelling expenses. The Chairman if an officer of the Department of Public Welfare. Applications are investigated by regional welfare officers of the Department.

1/ In June 1954 a new Social Assistance Act (S.N. 1954, No. 37) was passed in Newfoundland in which the mothers' Allowances program was incorporated. The Act will come into effect on April 1, 1955. Since the Mothers' Allowances Act will remain in force during a transitional period following the implementation of the new Act, the provisions of the former are set out in this bulletin. The 1954 Social Assistance Act provides generally for assistance to the same categories of needy mothers as the Mothers' Allowances Act and contains similar eligibility requirements. The program, however, will be administered by a Director of Social Assistance rather than by a Mothers' Allowances Board as at present. The Act also provides that an appeal may be made to the Minister from decisions of the Director. The Act includes within the definition of social assistance not only financial assistance but also assistance in kind; institutional, nursing, boarding or foster home care; assistance to meet emergencies arising from fire, storm, flood, or other like causes; assistance toward the repairs and renovation of homes; counselling services; and generally any form of assistance necessary in the opinion of the Minister to relieve destitution and suffering or to rehabilitate any person.

FINANCING

The costs of allowances and administration are paid entirely from moneys appropriated by the Legislature.

ELIGIBILITY: COVERAGE

Subject to the provisions of the Act and the Regulations, an allowance may be paid to a mother who has one or more dependent children living with her and has not the means to care for them properly without assistance. An allowance may be paid to a step-mother or an adoptive mother.

CHILDREN

Basic Age. An allowance may be paid on behalf of a child or children under 17 years.

Extension while Attending School. If a child reaches 17 years of age during a school year, the allowance paid on his behalf may be continued until the end of that school year provided he is attending school. The allowance may be further continued until the age of twenty-one on behalf of a child or children in need of financial assistance because of continued attendance at school or college or because of other reasons.

Extension for Handicapped Children. An allowance may be paid on behalf of an incapacitated child or children over seventeen but under 21 years of age.

MOTHERS

Widow. A mother whose husband is dead may be eligible for an allowance.

Husband Incapacitated. A mother may also be eligible if her husband is physically or mentally disabled. His condition must be such that there is no prospect of improvement for at least three months from the date of application, and must be of such a nature as to render him incapable of maintaining himself or his family.1/

1/ Under the new Social Assistance Act, 1954, "incapacitated" means a condition of physical or mental illness or disability of such a nature as to render a person incapable of maintaining himself or his family. There is no reference to duration of disability.

The husband must be examined by a doctor approved by the Board and his incapacity established to the satisfaction of an appointed medical referee. The referee may request a further examination at the expense of the Department of Public Welfare. The Board may, in its discretion, accept the certificate of a qualified nurse for a period not exceeding six months. It may require that the husband be re-examined from time to time and may suspend the allowance if he refuses.

Husband in Mental Hospital or Sanatorium. A mother whose husband is a patient in a mental or other hospital or sanatorium may be eligible for an allowance. The allowance may be continued following discharge if the medical certificate on discharge recommends a further period of rest and treatment at home. In some instances the allowance may be continued temporarily for rehabilitation purposes on the recommendation of a Welfare Officer.

Husband in Penal Institution. A mother whose husband is in gaol or in a penitentiary may receive an allowance.

Divorced or Separated Parents. A woman may be eligible if she is legally separated or divorced from her husband and if she has been unable, after making every reasonable effort in the opinion of the Board, to obtain support from him.

Deserted Wife. A woman who has been deserted by her husband may be eligible if she has been unable, after making every reasonable effort in the opinion of the Board, to obtain support from him.

Unmarried Mother. A mother may be eligible if, though not married, she was living in marital relations with a man who died a resident of Newfoundland and who has been a resident for at least five years immediately preceding his death, and if she has borne children who are registered in his name. Other unmarried mothers are also eligible. In such cases the Director of Child Welfare must certify to the Board that an allowance is essential for the maintenance and rehabilitation of the mother and children.

Foster Parent. An allowance may be paid to a grandmother, sister or aunt, or to any other relative or suitable person approved by the Board, and recognized as responsible for the care of the children, if she has the

care of one or more orphan children[1] and cannot provide for them properly without assistance.

Father. An allowance may be paid to a father who is living at home with his dependent child or children if he is incapacitated or if he is unable to obtain the services of a suitable person to look after the home. To be eligible he must be a resident of Newfoundland and his wife must be dead, incapacitated, an inmate of a sanatorium, hospital, or gaol, or have deserted the home.

ELIGIBILITY: GENERAL CONDITIONS

CHARACTER

There is no requirement in the legislation concerning character.

Third Party Administration. If the Board finds that the mother or father of a child or children in respect of whom an allowance is payable under the Act is not a fit person to care for the children, the allowance may be paid to a guardian or other person chosen by the Board who will spend it for the care and maintenance of the child or children.

NATIONALITY

There is no nationality requirement.

RESIDENCE

The applicant must be resident in Newfoundland at the time of her application and must continue to live in the Province while receiving the allowance. For the purposes of the Act an applicant is resident in Newfoundland if her main place of abode, to which she intends to return when absent, is in the Province. A person is not considered resident in Newfoundland during any period of consecutive absence which exceeds one year.

1/ The Social Assistance Act, 1954, defines "orphan" as a child who has lost one or both parents by death.

MEANS TEST

A mother, father or dependent child, living in a rural community, are not entitled to an allowance if the total net value of their joint real and personal property exceeds $5000; in an urban community the value must not exceed an amount which, in the opinion of the Director, is sufficient for proper maintenance and care. The Board decides in each case whether the community is rural or urban. No liens are placed against the property of applicants. The total value of their combined liquid assets may not exceed $750. The maximum allowable outside income is $360 a year with the maximum annual allowance payable being reduced by the amount of any income in excess of that sum. Outside income includes salary or wages, alimony or court orders for maintenance, or other means of livelihood except small casual gifts and family allowances. The reasonable value of free board and lodging is also included. Twenty per cent of the earnings of older children living at home is considered as income. In determining outside income, the Board may establish the value of shelter, lodging, subsistence, or other resources available to the applicant, both present and potential. It may, however, authorize an exemption from outside income if the applicant, in order to earn that income, must make expenditures toward the care of a home or the management of a business or other source of income.

Foster mothers are not subject to the same means test as other applicants. A reduced allowance is paid on behalf of the child only.

ELIGIBILITY: EXCEPTIONAL CASES

The Lieutenant-Governor in Council may direct the payment and fix the amount of an allowance to a mother or foster mother who is not strictly eligible under the Act, if investigation shows this to be advisable.

RATES OF ALLOWANCE

The maximum allowance for a mother and one child is $25 a month, with $5 for each additional child and $10 for a disabled father living in the home. The maximum allowance payable is set at $70 a month for a mother, an incapacitated father at home, and eight children. The

actual amount granted is determined by the Board after consideration of the circumstances of the applicant. The allowance ceases to be paid on behalf of a disabled father when the youngest child becomes ineligible.

SUPPLEMENTARY ALLOWANCES

An additional allowance not exceeding $30 a month may be granted if, because of extra or special diets, educational or other necessitous circumstances, the Board finds the additional amount necessary for the proper care and maintenance of a family. An additional supplementary allowance for fuel and rent may, in some instances, also be made.

DISQUALIFICATIONS OR GROUNDS FOR CANCELLATION

An allowance is cancelled if the mother becomes ineligible under the terms of the Act. The Board may suspend any allowance if, in its discretion, such action is warranted. The allowance may also be suspended if an incapacitated father refuses to submit to physical examination as required. The legal liability of any person to maintain his or her dependent child or parent is not limited or removed by the provisions of the Act.

SPECIAL SERVICES

CASEWORK OR FAMILY COUNSELLING

Counselling services are provided by the regional welfare staff of the Department.

HEALTH SERVICES

In cottage hospital areas in Newfoundland, recipients of Mothers' Allowances are expected to pay the annual subscription fee of $15 to cover medical and hospital care for the family, including surgery obstetrical care, and some dentistry. This care, however, may be provided if they are unable to pay the premiums or if such payments would constitute a hardship. The collection of hospital fees from recipients is being discontinued, however, as from April 1, 1955. In the St. John's district needy persons may obtain from a relief officer authorization for clinical treatment or hospitalization with the costs being met by the Department of Public Health.

STAFF TRAINING PROGRAM

The administration maintains an active program of staff development for departmental welfare personnel. New staff members are given a six weeks' orientation course during which they generally work under competent and close supervision at the St. John's city welfare office. Further training consists of a six weeks' course during the summer months. These courses have been held both in Toronto and St. John's under members of the University of Toronto School of Social Work. Staff members with the necessary qualifications may obtain paid leave of absence to take an extended course at a School of Social Work on the mainland. Also, regional staff development conferences are held from time to time. During the summer of 1954, for example, there were five such conferences.

RECIPROCAL AGREEMENTS

There is no provision for reciprocal agreements in the legislation.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

TITLE OF ACT

The Mothers' Allowances Act, S.P.E.I. 1949, c. 29, and 1953, c.31 (first session). The initial legislation was passed in 1949 and the first payments were effective as of June 1 of that year.

ADMINISTRATION

The Director of Mothers' Allowances is responsible to the Minister of Health and Welfare for the administration of the Act. An Advisory Commission appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council inquires into the merits of all applications, recommends to the Director the minimum allowance necessary in each case, and advises him with regard to changing or cancelling an allowance. It may also make recommendations to the Director regarding applicants and beneficiaries under the Act. The Commission, which meets at least once a month, consists of at least three members holding office for not more than three years. Members serve without salary but may be granted travelling expenses and per diem allowances while attending meetings. Applications for allowances are made to the Director and are investigated by field staff of the Department. The Director's decision as to the actual amount to be paid is final.

FINANCING

The costs of allowances and of administration are paid entirely from the Provincial Treasury out of funds appropriated for the purpose.

ELIGIBILITY: COVERAGE

Subject to the provisions of the Act and the Regulations, an allowance may be paid to a mother who has in her care one or more children and who has insufficient means to provide for their maintenance. An allowance may be paid on behalf of a step-child or a child legally adopted by a husband and wife jointly.

CHILDREN

Basic Age. An allowance may be paid on behalf of a child or children under sixteen years of age.

Extension while Attending School. Payment of the allowance may, in the discretion of the Director, be continued until the end of the school year during which a child reaches the age of sixteen provided he is still attending school.

Extension for Handicapped Children. There is no provision for extending the age limit for physically or mentally incapacitated children.

MOTHERS

Widow. An allowance may be paid to a mother on behalf of a child or children whose father is dead.

Husband Incapacitated. An allowance may be paid to a mother if the father is unable to contribute to the support of the mother and children because of permanent total disability of such a nature that it cannot be corrected in the foreseeable future. The disability must have arisen in a seriously disabling form while he was resident in the Province. In such cases the unemployability of the father must be certified by a qualified doctor.

Husband in Mental Hospital. An allowance may be paid if the father is a patient in a provincial mental hospital and became a patient while resident in the Province. The allowance may be continued after his discharge for a period of treatment at home recommended by the Medical Superintendent of the hospital and for any further period of treatment as is recommended by the Superintendent or the Chief Health Officer of the Province.

Husband in Sanatorium. If the father is in a sanatorium the mother is not eligible for Mothers' Allowances. However, she is eligible for the extramural assistance granted under the Social Assistance Act to families in which there is tuberculosis. She receives assistance at the same rate as Mothers' Allowances.

Husband in Penal Institution. The mother may be eligible if the father is in a penal institution for a term of one year or longer.

Divorced or Separated Parents. The legislation does not provide for the payment of allowances to divorced and separated mothers.

Deserted Wife. A woman who has been deserted by her husband may be eligible for an allowance if she has been

deserted for at least two years immediately prior to the date of her application and at a time when her husband was a resident of the Province. As far as can be ascertained, he must not be in the Province, or own property in the Province, and she must be unable to obtain support from him after having made all reasonable efforts to do so.

Unmarried Mother. An unmarried mother is not eligible for an allowance.

Foster Parent. An allowance may be paid to a grandmother, aunt, or older sister of the child or children if they are actually in her care and if there are insufficient means available for their maintenance. In such cases, the mother must be dead, unable to care for the child because of total disability which cannot be corrected in the forseeable future and which arose while she was resident in the Province, or she must be a patient in a provincial hospital and must have become so while resident in the Province. The father must be dead, totally disabled as above, or a patient in a provincial hospital and must have become so while resident in the Province.

ELIGIBILITY: GENERAL CONDITIONS

CHARACTER

The applicant must be in every way a fit, proper, and suitable person to have the custody and care of the child.

Third Party Administration. There is no provision for the payment of an allowance to a person other than the beneficiary.

NATIONALITY

The child must be a Canadian citizen or a British subject or the mother must be a Canadian citizen. If the mother is dead, she must have been a Canadian citizen at the time of her death, or before her marriage. The applicant must not be an Indian as defined by the Indian Act of Canada.

RESIDENCE

The child must live in the Province with the applicant and must have been resident in the Province for at least three years immediately prior to the date of

application for an allowance. If the child is under three, the mother must have been resident in the Province at the time of the birth of the child and the child must have been resident since birth. If a child in respect of whom an allowance is being paid is required to leave the actual care of the mother or foster mother temporarily, the Director may authorize the continuation of the allowance provided he is satisfied the absence will not exceed two months and that it is in the interest of the child. If the absence is for the purpose of attending school, the Director may authorize the absence provided it does not at any one time exceed the duration of a school term and the Inspector of Schools certifies it is necessary.

MEANS TEST

No allowance may be granted if the mother has an interest exceeding $5000 in an estate situated in the Province. No lien is placed against property. The total allowable annual income, including allowance depends on the number of children in the family, increasing from $900 for a mother with one child to $1500 for a mother with seven or more children. In calculating income the following resources are considered: free lodging valued at $20 per month, earnings of mother and children, assistance from relatives in the form of gratuities, interest from invested personal property, and rent from real estate less taxes. The earnings of older children who are not eligible but are living at home are considered in accordance with individual circumstances. No allowance may be paid if the mother is entitled to compensation as a widow under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1949 (P.E.I.) or the Pension Act, 1919 (Canada), or if her children are eligible for compensation under the Pension Act, 1909 (Canada). The same means test is applied to foster mothers as to other applicants.

ELIGIBILITY: EXCEPTIONAL CASES

If investigation shows it to be advisable, the Minister, on the recommendation of the Director, may, in special circumstances, direct that an allowance be paid to a mother not strictly eligible under the Act. This provision would apply when a mother born in the Province returns after losing her residence.

RATES OF ALLOWANCE

The maximum monthly allowance is $25 for a mother and one child with $5 for each additional child up to the family maximum of $50. The maximum is reduced by the amount by which gross income exceeds the amount allowed. The actual amount to be paid is set by the Director after consideration of the circumstances of each applicant.

SUPPLEMENTARY ALLOWANCES

The Act makes no provision for supplementary allowances.

DISQUALIFICATIONS OR GROUNDS FOR CANCELLATION

Failure to report circumstances affecting eligibility or failure of the child to attend school in accordance with the provincial Public School Act except in cases of illness, are grounds for cancellation of the allowance. The allowance must be applied towards the maintenance of the child or children on whose behalf it is paid. The legal liability of any person for the maintenance of a child, however, is not limited or removed by the provisions of the Act.

SPECIAL SERVICES

CASEWORK OR FAMILY COUNSELLING

The regulations provide that members of the staff visit, confer with, and advise mothers who are receiving allowances.

HEALTH SERVICES

There is no special provision for medical or hospital care for recipients. Provincial grants to general hospitals are, however, contingent upon the provision of hospital care for those unable to pay.

STAFF TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

Information not available.

RECIPROCAL AGREEMENTS

The Act does not provide for reciprocal agreements.

N O V A S C O T I A

TITLE OF ACT

The Mothers' Allowances Act, S.N.S. 1930, c4; amended by 1942, c35; 1943, c26; 1945, c50; 1949, c35; 1950, c35; 1952, c46; 1953, c27; 1954, c30. The initial legislation became effective May 1, 1930, and the allowances were paid from October 1, of that year.

ADMINISTRATION

The Director of Mothers' Allowances is responsible to the Minister of Public Welfare for the administration of the Act. He must approve all allowances, and his decision with regard to eligibility and amount of allowance is final and not subject to appeal or review by any court of law or otherwise, although he may reconsider any decision made in connection with an allowance. An Advisory Commission of not fewer than three members, two of whom must be women, meets at least monthly to consider applications on the basis of reports from investigations and makes written recommendations to the Director, certifying that the conditions of eligibility have been met and advising the Director of the minimum allowance necessary in each individual case. The Commission also advises regarding changing or cancelling allowances and makes recommendations regarding applicants and beneficiaries and the administration of the Act. Commissioners are appointed for one year and serve without salary except for travelling expenses and a per diem allowance during meetings. Local advisory committees may be appointed in cities or districts, although no such committees are appointed at present. Applications are investigated by departmental field staff who work through district offices. In some areas the staff are responsible as well for services under other programs.

FINANCING

Costs of allowances and of administration are paid by the Province from special appropriations made by the Legislature. Deficits, if any, are met from the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

ELIGIBILITY: COVERAGE

Subject to the provisions of the Act and Regulations, an allowance may be paid to a mother who has living with her one or more dependent children under sixteen years of age and who has not adequate means of maintaining and supporting them. The mother of a legally adopted child is also eligible if the child was adopted before her husband died or became permanently disabled. An allowance may also be paid on behalf of a step-child.

CHILDREN

Basic Age. An allowance may be paid on behalf of a child or children under sixteen years of age.

Extension while Attending School. An allowance on behalf of a child may be continued until he is 18 years of age or until the end of the school year in which he becomes 18, whichever is the later if he remains at school and if the Director considers it admissable that his education be continued.

Extension for Handicapped Children. An allowance not exceeding $40 per month may be paid to a mother with a disabled child 16 years or over but not yet old enough to be eligible for an allowance under the federal-provincial legislation for disabled persons.[1] There is no special provision on behalf of such a disabled child if there is a younger child in the family under 16. However, since allowances are granted on a budgetary basis, it is not mandatory to reduce the allowance and, in special cases, where there is a younger child the allowance may be continued at the same rate although it is being paid on behalf of only one child.

MOTHERS

Widow. An allowance may be granted to a mother whose husband is dead.

Husband Incapacitated. A mother whose husband by reason of permanent, physical or mental disability is unable to support his family may be eligible. The disability

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1/ The Disabled Persons Act, S.C., 1953-54, c.55; The Disabled Persons Allowances Act, S.N.S., 1954, c.11.

of the husband must be certified by the family physician and except in extreme cases, the applicant must meet the cost of the examination. The departmental Medical Advisor examines the record to determine whether or not the father is unemployable within the meaning of the Act and the case is reviewed every six months or more often if the situation requires it. The final decision of the Director is based upon both social and medical evidence.

Husband in Mental Hospital or Sanatorium. A mother may be eligible under the Act as the wife of permanently disabled husband if the latter is committed to a mental hospital or sanatorium.

Husband in Penal Institution. No allowance is paid to a mother whose husband is in a penal institution.

Divorced or Separated Parents. No allowance is paid to a mother who has been divorced or legally separated.

Deserted Wife. No allowance is paid to a mother who has been deserted.

Unmarried Mother. An unmarried mother is not eligible.

Foster Parent. An allowance on behalf of a child or children whose parents are dead or permanently disabled may be paid to the grandmother, sister, aunt or other person who in the opinion of the Commission is a suitable person to have their care and custody. The children must be in the actual care and custody of the foster parent who must be without adequate means to support them.

ELIGIBILITY: GENERAL CONDITIONS

CHARACTER

The mother or other person in charge of the children must be a suitable person to have the care and custody of the children.

Third Party Administration. There is no provision for the administration of an allowance by a person other than the beneficiary.

NATIONALITY

The mother or person in whose charge the children are must be a British subject and not an Indian, as defined by the Indian Act of Canada.

RESIDENCE

The mother must be resident in Nova Scotia at the time of application and have been so resident for at least three years prior to her application or since her marriage. She must have been resident at or before the time of her husband's death or the time he became permanently disabled and must not be eligible for an allowance outside Nova Scotia. Her husband must have been resident at or before the time of his death or when he became disabled and must not have acquired residence elsewhere that would qualify his wife to receive an allowance of the same kind outside Nova Scotia. The child or children must reside in the Province with the mother. However allowances may be continued during temporary absences of the child from home for purposes of education or for other reasons. If the children are in care of a foster mother and the mother is dead, the mother must have been resident for three years immediately prior to her death or from the time of her marriage to her death, whichever is the shorter period.

MEANS TEST

The mother may not have cash in excess of $1500 or securities which are readily convertible and of a cash value in excess of $1500. The child and/or the mother may not have an interest in real or personal property or both of a value which, in the opinion of the Director, is sufficient for the adequate maintenance of the child. No lien is placed against property. Other income is also taken into account in establishing the amount of the allowance. The earnings of older children who are not eligible but are living at home are taken into consideration but to a decreasing extent. No allowance may be paid if the mother, father or child is entitled to compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act of Nova Scotia, or if the mother or child is entitled to a pension or allowance under the Pensions Act (Canada) or under any other similar legislation in Canada or in any other country or jurisdiction.

ELIGIBILITY: EXCEPTIONAL CASES

There is no provision for granting allowances to needy mothers not strictly eligible under the terms of the Act.

RATES OF ALLOWANCE

The maximum monthly allowance payable to a family is set at $80. No maximum is set for a mother and one child or for each additional child. A disabled father in the home is included in the budget on which the amount of the allowance is based. The average monthly fuel and clothing costs are also included in the budget. The allowance is intended to supplement the family's income and the amount paid is determined by the circumstances of each applicant.

SUPPLEMENTARY ALLOWANCES

There is no provision for the payment of supplementary allowances over and above the maximum of $80 per month in cases of unusual need.

DISQUALIFICATIONS OR GROUNDS FOR CANCELLATION

No allowance may be granted if the child ceases to live with his mother in the Province, or if the mother is eligible for any other form of social assistance. Nothing in the Act limits or removes the legal duty or liability of any person for the support or maintenance of dependent children.

SPECIAL SERVICES

CASEWORK OR FAMILY COUNSELLING

Casework and family counselling services are provided by visitors and investigators. Provincial field staff are required to visit each recipient at least twice a year.

HEALTH SERVICES

Medical and Surgical. Under an agreement between the Government of the Province and the Medical Society of Nova Scotia, recipients of Mothers' Allowances and their eligible dependents are provided with limited medical care at home or in the doctor's office including the drugs and dressings ordinarily used during such visits. This program does not include surgery except tonsils and adenoids and minor surgery in the doctor's office. Fractures and refractions (eye test) are included for children up to the age of fifteen years. Obstetrical benefits are also included. For these services the Department of Public Welfare pays the Society 83 cents per month for each person on whose behalf an allowance is paid.

Hospitalization. There is no special provision for the hospitalization of recipients of Mothers' Allowances or their dependents, but if they are unable to meet the account, the costs may be met by the municipality of residence in the same way as for others who cannot pay.

STAFF TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

As a general rule, graduation from a school of social work is required but, in some instances, persons with university training are accepted and in-service training is provided.

RECIPROCAL AGREEMENTS

The Act does not provide for reciprocal agreements with other provinces.

N E W B R U N S W I C K

TITLE OF ACT

The Mothers' Allowances Act, R.S.N.B. 1952, c. 147. The initial legislation, the Mothers' Allowance Act of 1930, was proclaimed in 1943 and the first payments made on November 30, 1943.

ADMINISTRATION

The Act is administered by a Director who is appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council and is responsible to the Minister of Health and Social Services. He receives applications, all of which must be accompanied by statutory declarations. His decision with respect to eligibility and amount of allowance is final, although he may alter, amend and rescind any such decision. An Advisory Commission appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council considers all applications and on the basis of reports from investigators makes recommendations to the Director regarding eligibility and the minimum allowance to be granted in each case. It also advises on the altering or withdrawing of allowances and makes recommendation to the Director concerning applicants and beneficiaries under the Act. The Commission, which meets at least once a month, consists of not fewer than three members, two of whom must be women. Members are appointed for not more than five years, and serve without salary except for travelling expenses and a per diem allowance during meetings. The Chairman of the Commission at present is the provincial Child Welfare Officer. Departmental field staff make the investigations on which the decisions regarding eligibility are based. The staff are also investigators for other provincial public assistance programs.

FINANCING

The costs of allowances and administration are paid by the Province out of a special fund established for that purpose.

ELIGIBILITY: COVERAGE

Subject to the provisions of the Act and Regulations, an allowance may be paid to a mother towards the support

of a child or children who are actually in her care and for whose support adequate means are not available. An allowance may be paid in respect of a legitimate child, including a stepchild, and a child legally adopted by a husband and wife jointly.

CHILDREN

Basic Age. An allowance may be paid on behalf of a child or children under 16 years of age.

Extension while Attending School. An allowance paid on behalf of a child who reaches 16 years of age and is attending school may be continued until the end of the school year.

Extention for Handicapped Children. There is no provision for extending the payment of allowances made on behalf of physically or mentally incapacitated children 16 years of age or over.

MOTHERS

Widow. A mother may be eligible for an allowance on behalf of her child or children if the father is dead.

Husband Incapacitated. A mother may be eligible if the father is unable to support the children because of total permanent disability which arose while he was resident in the Province. The regulations provide for the appointment of a Medical Advisor, who on the basis of medical reports forwarded by family doctors, rules on cases of permanent total disability and advises the Director concerning them. The latter, upon the recommendation of the Medical Advisor, may authorize the hospitalization of the person claiming total disability and such x-ray, laboratory and other services essential to diagnosis. Costs of such services are paid by the Province.

Husband in Mental Hospital. An allowance may be granted if the father is a patient in the Provincial Hospital for the mentally ill and became a patient while resident in the Province. Payment of the allowance may be continued after his discharge during such periods of further treatment at home as are certified by the Superintendent or by the Chief Medical Officer of the Province.

Husband in Sanatorium. An allowance may be granted if the father is a patient in a sanatorium for the

treatment of tuberculosis and became a patient while resident in the Province. Payments may be continued after discharge during periods of further treatment certified by the Superintendent of the Sanatorium or by Chief Medical Officer.

Husband in Penal Institution. A mother is not eligible because her husband is in a penal institution.

Divorced or Separated Parents. A mother who has been divorced or separated is not eligible.

Deserted Wife. To be eligible, the mother must have been deserted at least two years immediately prior to the date of her application. Her husband must not be in the Province, so far as can be ascertained or own property in the Province and she must be unable to obtain support from him after having made every reasonable effort to do so.

Unmarried Mother. No allowance is paid towards the support of the child or children of an unmarried mother.

Foster Parent. An allowance may be paid to a grandmother, aunt or sister, on behalf of the children, if the mother is dead, unable to care for them because of permanent total disability or is a patient in the Provincial Hospital or sanatorium and if the father is also dead, disabled or confined. The death, disability or confinement of the parents must have taken place while they were resident in the province. The children must be in the actual care and custody of the foster mother and there must be insufficient means of their maintenance.

ELIGIBILITY: GENERAL CONDITIONS

CHARACTER

The applicant must be a fit, proper and suitable person to have the care and custody of the child or children.

Third Party Administration. The Lieutenant-Governor in Council may make regulations providing for the payment of the allowance in special circumstances to a suitable person other than the applicant to be administered for the maintenance of the family.

NATIONALITY

The child must be a Canadian citizen or his mother must be a Canadian citizen. If she is dead she must have

been a Canadian citizen at the time of her death, or before her marriage. The applicant must not be an Indian, as defined by the Indian Act of Canada.

RESIDENCE

The child must be resident in the Province, and must have been so resident for at least three years prior to the date of the application, or, if the child is under three years of age, the mother must have been resident at the time of his birth and the child must have been resident since birth. A child resident in the Province may be eligible if the father was a member of the Armed Forces during World War II and was resident at the time of enlistment.

A person is resident if his main place of abode, to which he returns whenever absent, is situated in the Province. A person is not considered resident during any period of absence exceeding twelve months. An allowance is suspended during the absence of the child, mother or foster mother from the Province. However, if justified by circumstances, it may be paid for a period of absence not exceeding a total of three months in the twelve month period preceding the return to the Province of the absent child, mother or foster mother.

The child or children must live with the recipient but if a child is required to leave the actual care of his mother or foster mother temporarily, the Director may permit the allowance to be continued for not more than two months. The child may also leave home to attend school provided his absence at any one time does not exceed a school term and is approved by the County Superentendent of Schools.

MEANS TEST

No allowance will be paid if the mother, father, or children own or acquire real property exceeding, free of encumbrances, $5,000 in value, or liquid assets, other than household effects, to a value exceeding $1,000. Also no allowance will be paid if there is in force upon the life of any such persons a contract of insurance, the insurance money under which is not payable to a beneficiary or assignee for value, and which has a guaranteed loan value in excess of $1000. For purposes of the Act the true value of the property is used, but no lien is placed against any property owned by the beneficiary or

her dependents. No specific limitation is placed on outside income such as earnings, monthly cash payments, farm income or rentals, as each case is considered on the basis of need. However, earnings of the mother in excess of $60 per month are deducted from the allowance. Earnings of older children are generally not considered, provided that the child is making an adequate contribution to the home for his own maintenance.

A less rigid means test is applied to foster mothers than to other beneficiaries.

ELIGIBILITY: EXCEPTIONAL CASES

There is no provision under the Act for aid to needy mothers not strictly eligible. They are the responsibility of the Provincial Child Welfare Officer and the Children's Aid Society of the municipality in which they live.

RATES OF ALLOWANCE

The maximum allowance for a mother and one child is $35 per month, with $10 for each additional child. The monthly maximum for a family is $80. No additional allowance is granted for a disabled father living in the home and there is no special provision for winter clothing or fuel. The total income in money and kind is considered in determining the amount of the allowance to be granted in each case.

SUPPLEMENTARY ALLOWANCES

The Director may grant an additional $10 for rent if circumstances require it but only when the allowance already being paid is less than the family maximum of $80 monthly.

DISQUALIFICATIONS OR GROUNDS FOR CANCELLATION

No allowance may be paid in respect of any child of school age who is not attending school in accordance with the provisions of the provincial School Attendance Act. No allowance will be paid if, in an effort to obtain the allowance or an increase therein, property has been transferred without adequate compensation within two years of the application. Failure to report circumstances

affecting eligibility and failure to use the allowance for the maintenance of the child are grounds for cancellation of the allowance. The legal liability of any person for the maintenance of a child is not limited or removed by the provisions of the Act.

SPECIAL SERVICES

CASEWORK OR FAMILY COUNSELLING

Investigators interview all applicants and visitors see each family once in three months.

HEALTH SERVICES

There is no special provision for medical care for recipients of Mothers' Allowances and their dependents but out-patient and in-patient care are available to them in the same way as to others who are unable to pay. Costs are met by the municipality of residence.

STAFF TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

Not defined.

RECIPROCAL AGREEMENTS

The Act does not provide for reciprocal agreements with other provinces.

Q U E B E C

TITLE OF ACT

The Needy Mothers' Assistance Act, R.S.Q. 1941, c 180; amended by S.Q. 1942, c 53; 1944, c 32; 1946 c 22; 1947 c 55. The initial legislation was passed in 1937. The first payments, made on February 10, 1939, were retroactive to December 15, 1938.

ADMINISTRATION

The Needy Mothers' Assistance Bureau, appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, carries out the provisions of the Act under the direction of the Minister of Social Welfare and Youth. The Bureau decides on eligibility in each case and on the amount of allowance to be granted. Applications are forwarded to the central office of the Bureau. Each must be accompanied by a certificate from the officer of the municipality in which the applicant is resident listing the immovable property registered in the same of the applicant or her husband during the past five years. Municipal officers may also indicate to the Bureau persons who do not appear to them to be entitled to an allowance. The Act requires re-investigation of the circumstances of each recipient at least once a year. Applications are investigated by staff appointed under the Old Age Assistance Act or by women investigators appointed under the Needy Mothers' Assistance Act. Investigators work from five regional offices.

FINANCING

The costs of the allowances and of administration are paid out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the Province. The provision under which a levy of five per cent of the cost of the allowance may be made on the municipality of residence has not been enforced.

ELIGIBILITY: COVERAGE

Subject to the terms of the Act an allowance may be granted to a mother who has one or more legitimate children living with her and who does not possess the means necessary for their support. Step-children and legally adopted children are included under the provisions of the Act.

CHILDREN

Basic Age. An allowance may be paid on behalf of a child or children under 16 years of age.

Extension while Attending School. An allowance being paid on behalf of a child may be continued beyond the age of sixteen while he is attending school or college.

Extension for Handicapped Children. An allowance may be paid on behalf of a child who is unable to work because of mental or physical disability but there is no specified age at which such children become ineligible.

MOTHERS

Widow. A mother whose husband is dead is eligible for an allowance.

Husband Incapacitated. A mother whose husband is totally disabled, that is, mentally or physically unable to work, is eligible provided his disability is established to the satisfaction of the Medical Service of the Bureau to be of at least 12 months duration.

Husband in Mental Hospital. A mother is eligible if her husband is a patient in a mental hospital and if his illness can be expected to last at least 12 months. The allowance in such cases is payable for not more than six months in each year when the husband is on leave of absence from the hospital.

Husband in Sanatorium. A mother may also be eligible if her husband is a patient in a tuberculosis sanatorium and his illness can be expected to last at least 12 months. If he is not in a sanatorium but is mentally or physically unable to work for at least 12 months an allowance may be paid providing his condition is not contagious. The allowance may be continued for not more than six months when the husband becomes able to work after having suffered from tuberculosis but is working only part-time and, in the opinion of the Medical Service of the Bureau, is unable to do more without danger of relapse.

Husband in Penal Institution. An allowance may be paid to a mother whose husband is in a prison or other place of detention for a period of 12 months or more.

Separated or Divorced Parents. A separated or divorced mother may receive an allowance under the clause providing for the payment of allowances in special cases to needy mothers not strictly eligible. In most instances attempts are made to locate the husband and the necessary steps taken to obtain his contributions to the maintenance of his family providing he is able to so contribute.

Deserted Wife. A woman whose husband has been absent for one year and who has no knowledge of his existence or his whereabouts may be eligible for an allowance.

Unmarried Mother. No allowance may be paid in respect of a child whose parents are not legally married.

Foster Parent. If a mother who would have been eligible or who is already receiving an allowance dies or is hospitalized, an allowance may be paid to a grandmother, aunt, or older sister over 21 years of age. A foster parent must satisfy the same conditions of character, nationality, and residence as do mothers.

FATHER

If the mother is dead or disabled, the allowance may be paid to a disabled father who is incapable of working for at least 12 months. It may also be paid to a disabled father under other circumstances but only if the mother herself is eligible. The allowance is paid to the father not as the beneficiary, but as the administrator or as the guardian of the children.

ELIGIBILITY: GENERAL CONDITIONS

CHARACTER

The mother must, to the satisfaction of the Bureau, afford reasonable guarantee of good conduct and competency to give her children the care of a good mother.

Third Party Administration. An administrator may be appointed by the Bureau to use the allowance for the needs of the beneficiary and her children when she seems to be incapable of making good use of it.

NATIONALITY

The mother must possess Canadian citizenship by birth or by marriage, or must have been a Canadian citizen for at least 15 years, or must be the wife or the widow of a Canadian citizen.

RESIDENCE

The mother must live in the Province and have been domiciled in the Province for at least five years immediately prior to her application for an allowance and, in fact, have resided therein for at least 1,095 days within this period. The children must live with the beneficiary but if she or one of the children must leave home temporarily, the allowance may be continued if the Bureau is satisfied that the absence is necessary or desirable.

MEANS TEST

No allowance may be paid if the mother, her husband and dependent children, or any of them own or acquire liquid assets or moveable property, other than household furnishings and clothing, in excess of $2,000; or real property, the net equity of which, according to the municipal evaluation, exceeds $3,000 in an area of a population of 5,000 or more, or $2,000 in an area in which the population is less than 5,000. No lien is placed against property owned by the beneficiary or her dependents. A beneficiary may earn up to $400 a year without affecting her allowance. Any amount over that sum is deducted from the maximum allowance to which she would otherwise be entitled. In determining the income of an applicant, family allowances, assigned pay, gratuities from charitable or welfare organizations, casual gifts or amounts expended on hospitalization for herself, husband, or dependent children are not considered. In all cases, however, the Bureau must take into consideration the obligations of children for the maintenance of their parents under the Civil Code and may reduce the allowance for any other justified reasons. Income is calculated on a yearly basis. The Bureau may grant a reduced allowance to a foster mother taking into consideration her means for her own support.

ELIGIBILITY: EXCEPTIONAL CASES

In special cases provision is also made for the granting of allowances to needy mothers not strictly eligible under the terms of the Act if the Needy Mothers' Assistance Bureau, after investigation, deems it equitable and in the spirit of the Act.

RATES OF ALLOWANCE

An applicant with one child, living in a city or town with a population of 5,000 or more, may receive a maximum of $40 a month for herself and child; in smaller localities she may receive up to $35 a month. The allowance is raised by $1 monthly for each of the second, third, fourth, and fifth children, by $2 for the sixth and seventh, and by $3 for the eighth and each subsequent child. An additional $5 is granted for a totally disabled husband living at home and for a mother who is physically or mentally unable to work. There is no maximum allowance set for a family but the minimum allowance which may be granted under the Act is $5 a month. The actual amount of the allowance is determined after consideration of the means of each applicant for her own support. Fuel and winter clothing are included in the allowance.

A foster mother may be granted an allowance of $20 per month for the first child plus $5 for each additional child. Her total allowance must not exceed the maximum allowance for which the mother would have been eligible.

SUPPLEMENTARY ALLOWANCE

Beneficiaries whose income and allowance are insufficient to meet their needs may receive a special monthly allowance under the Public Charities Act. These allowances are paid through social agencies.

DISQUALIFICATIONS OR GROUNDS FOR CANCELLATION

No allowance may be paid to a mother who does not keep at least one child with her; who leaves the Province; who fails to report changed circumstances; or who ceases to fulfil the conditions of eligibility. In no case may she accept employment prejudicial to the education or care of her children.

SPECIAL SERVICES

CASEWORK OR FAMILY COUNSELLING

Services are limited to investigations of eligibility before an allowance is granted and annually thereafter, but any case requiring counselling is referred to a proper social agency for attention.

HEALTH SERVICES

There is no special provision for needy mothers, as such, but community health services, such as dispensaries, clinics, and health units, where organized, are available to them.

STAFF TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

Information not available.

RECIPROCAL AGREEMENTS

The Act does not provide for reciprocal agreements with other provinces.

O N T A R I O

TITLE OF ACT

The Mothers' Allowances Act, S.O. 1952, c. 62; amended by S.O. 1953, c. 69; S.O. 1954, c. 55. The initial legislation was passed in 1920 and the first payments were made as from November 1, 1920.

ADMINISTRATION

The Department of Public Welfare, through the Director of Mothers' Allowances, is responsible for the administration of the Act. The Director, appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, receives all applications for allowances and determines the eligibility of each applicant and the amount of allowance to be granted. Decisions of the Director are final and not subject to review by any court of law or otherwise although he may rescind or alter such decisions. Applications are made initially to a local authority under the Act, that is, the local public welfare administrator, or commissioner or a person authorized by either or, in their absence, the municipal clerk or other person appointed by the municipal council with the approval of the Minister of Public Welfare. A field worker of the Department of Public Welfare may act as a local authority. The local authority must obtain all the information necessary to complete the applications which are then investigated by departmental field staff working from district offices.

FINANCING

All costs are paid by the Province from a special fund appropriated by the Legislature for the purpose.

ELIGIBILITY: COVERAGE

Subject to the provisions of the Act and Regulations an allowance may be paid towards the support of one or more dependent children, including adopted children and step-children, who are living with the applicant and who would not be cared for properly without the assistance of an allowance.

CHILDREN

Basic Age. An allowance may be paid on behalf of one or more children who are under 18. The children, if of school age, must be attending school or be on vacation from school and returning there at the end of the vacation period.

Extension for Handicapped Children. An allowance may be paid on behalf of a child under 18 who is unable to attend school because of a mental or physical disability.

MOTHERS

Widow. An applicant whose husband is dead may be eligible.

Husband Incapacitated. If her husband is permanently unemployable because of mental or physical disability, an applicant may be granted an allowance. The husband is considered unemployable if he is unable to contribute to the support of his family as a result of paralysis, cancer, mental illness, or tuberculosis, where he accepts prescribed treatment. The application must be accompanied by a certificate from a duly qualified medical practitioner. All such applications are reviewed by a Medical Advisory Board which obtains any necessary additional evidence and reports to the Director on the possibility of restoring employability through treatment. The Board reviews each case at least once a year.

Husband in Mental Hospital or Sanatorium. An applicant whose husband is in a hospital or sanatorium because of mental or physical incapacity may be eligible if his unemployability is certified by the Medical Advisory Board as satisfying the requirements of the Act.

Husband in Penal Institution. There is no direct provision under which a mother whose husband is in a penal institution may be eligible for an allowance but consideration is given to such applications under the clause providing for the granting of allowances in special cases.

Divorced Mother. An allowance may be paid to a mother for the support of her children if she has divorced their father and has been granted custody of the children in proceedings which did not provide for maintenance. If such provision was made, an allowance may be granted if the father has failed in his obligations and has not been heard of for at least one year.

Deserted Wife. An allowance may be granted to a woman whose husband has deserted her and has not been heard of for at least one year. Her application must be accompanied by a statutory declaration of circumstances, non-support, and failure of efforts to locate him.

Unmarried Mother. There is no provision for the payment of an allowance to an unmarried mother.

Foster Parent. An allowance may be paid to the grandmother, sister, or aunt of the children, or other suitable person who is acting as foster mother, provided that she is resident as required, that she has not the means to care for the children properly without an allowance, and that the children are living with her.

ELIGIBILITY: GENERAL CONDITIONS

CHARACTER

The applicant must, in the opinion of the Director, be a suitable person to receive an allowance.

Third Party Administration. If an allowance is not being expended for the benefit of the children, it may be paid to any other person approved in writing by the beneficiary as her trustee to expend the allowance on behalf of the children.

NATIONALITY

There is no requirement regarding nationality in the legislation.

RESIDENCE

The applicant must be resident in Ontario and must have been so resident for at least one year immediately prior to her application. She must also continue to reside in the Province with her children while receiving the allowance. In certain cases permission is granted for the child to leave home temporarily if he has to attend school in another municipality.

MEANS TEST

A mother may not own or acquire equity in real property in excess of $6,000 unless it is used as a home by the beneficiary and her dependents and circumstances require

that she live therein, or unless the beneficiary agrees to the terms and conditions required by the Director with respect to the real property. A mother may not own, or have held in trust for her or her children, cash, government bonds, or other liquid assets in excess of $1,000, unless the assets are applied to a series of future payments for the support of her children, as determined by the Commission. The regulations concerning the handling of property in no way constitute a lien against any property held by the beneficiary or her dependents. Income from other sources is considered in determining need on a budgetary basis. A beneficiary may be employed on a part-time basis, such time not to exceed 50 per cent of the normal work week. All allowances are subject to reduction where there are children of earning age living in the home and in any other cases where justified.

ELIGIBILITY: EXCEPTIONAL CASES

The Lieutenant-Governor in Council may, in special cases and where investigation shows it to be advisable, direct that an allowance be granted to a mother or foster mother not strictly eligible under the terms of the Act.

RATES OF ALLOWANCE

No maximum monthly allowance per family is set, but the maximum for a mother and one child is $50 per month, with $10 for each additional child and $10 for a totally disabled husband in the home. The allowance for the husband ceases when the allowance on behalf of the mother and children is discontinued. The maximum allowance paid to a foster mother in respect of one child is $24 a month, two children $48, and $10 in respect of each additional child. An additional $10 may be paid on behalf of a totally disabled father living with his children in the care of a foster mother. This additional allowance is discontinued when any other allowance paid to the foster mother under the Act ceases to be paid. A fuel allowance to meet the actual cost of fuel up to $24 per month may be granted for the period September 1 to March 31. Cost of winter clothing is included in the Allowance and/or the supplementary allowance. The actual amount paid is determined by the needs of the individual applicant.

SUPPLEMENTARY ALLOWANCES

A supplementary allowance of $20 may be granted to a mother or foster mother whose need is apparent to the Director.

DISQUALIFICATIONS OR GROUNDS FOR CANCELLATION

Failure to use the allowance for the maintenance of the child will result in the allowance being suspended or paid to an administrator. Neglect of a child, as defined in the Children's Protection Act of Ontario, is also considered cause for suspension. The Director may report cases of apparent neglect to a children's aid society for court action.

SPECIAL SERVICES

CASEWORK OR FAMILY COUNSELLING

Administrators and staffs of district offices of the Department of Public Welfare investigate applications, report to the Director at least every four months, make any other necessary investigations at the request of the Minister or Director, and assist beneficiaries wherever possible. Advice regarding expenditure of the allowance for the benefit of the dependents is available from field staff.

HEALTH SERVICES

Medical and Surgical. Under agreement between the Minister of Public Welfare and the Ontario Medical Association, limited medical care is provided at provincial cost. Services include home and office visits, emergency medication, home confinements, and specified minor surgery, but not medical aids, appliances and supplies. The Department of Public Welfare pays the Association $1.05 per month for each recipient who is then entitled to care from the physician of her choice.

Dental. While the Regulations allow for payment of the cost of dental services provided under any agreement made between the Province and the Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario, no such agreement is yet in effect. The dental care ordinarily available to indigents may be provided by the municipality. The supplementary allowance may also be granted for this purpose.

Optical. Beneficiaries and their dependents may receive eye examinations at provincial expense only if the participating physician, under the Ontario Welfare Plan, provides such a service.

Pharmaceutical. Physicians are required to provide emergency drugs.

Hospitalization. Hospitalization services are available as for indigent cases. Recipients requiring hospital care must apply to their municipality of residence for admission. The municipality is then responsible for the costs of the general ward care provided.

STAFF TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

In general, the requirements are social work training and/or in-service training.

RECIPROCAL AGREEMENTS

The Act does not provide for reciprocal agreements with other provinces.

M A N I T O B A

TITLE OF ACT

The Child Welfare Act, R.S.M. 1953, (2nd session), c. 7 (Part III). The initial legislation was passed in 1916 and the first payments were made in July of that year.

ADMINISTRATION

The Director of Public Welfare is responsible, under the direction and control of the Minister of Health and Public Welfare, for the administration of the Child Welfare Act. Applications are made to the Child Welfare Committee, if any, of the municipality in which the child resides, to the Director, to any person whom the Director may appoint, or to any municipal secretary-treasurer or administrator. They are investigated by field staff of the Department who work from district offices and who, in rural areas, also provide services under other programs of the Department. Eligibility and the amount of allowance to be paid in each case are determined by the Director who has power to enroll a child for an allowance and to fix, alter, or rescind any allowance. In any municipality or unorganized territory, the Director may appoint for a period of a year a committee of not fewer than three members to assist in investigation and supervision. However, apart from three or four instances, local committees have fallen into disuse.

FINANCING

The costs of administration and allowances are paid by the Province out of the Consolidated Fund.

ELIGIBILITY: COVERAGE

Subject to the provisions of the Act and the Regulations, an allowance may be paid towards the support of bereaved and dependent children who are likely to suffer because of lack of means for proper care. An Allowance may be paid in respect of a legally adopted child and of a step-child.

CHILDREN

Orphans. An allowance may be paid on behalf of a child who is an orphan.

Basic Age. An allowance may be paid on behalf of children under 15 years of age.

Extension while Attending School. An allowance may be continued for a child who is benefitting from instruction in school until he completes the school year in which is 17th birthday falls or until he completes Grade XI whichever is the sooner.

Extension for Handicapped Children. An allowance may be continued on behalf of children over 15 years and under 18 years who are incapable of self-support because of physical or mental incapacity.

MOTHERS

Widow. An allowance may be paid to the mother on behalf of one or more children whose father is dead.

Father Incapacitated. An allowance may be paid if the father is totally and permanently physically disabled. Applications on the grounds of physical incapacity must be accompanied by a medical certificate stating the nature and probable duration of the disability. The report must be approved by the medical officer of the Public Welfare Division who recommends the period of enrolment. Thus in some instances allowances may be granted in cases of temporary disability. The father may be required to accept institutional and medical care if the disease causing disability is likely to endanger the health of his children.

Father in Mental Hospital. An allowance may be paid to the mother on behalf of children whose father is a patient in a hospital for mental diseases. It may be continued during the term of probation under the "Mental Diseases Act".

Father in Sanatorium. An allowance may be paid to the mother on behalf of children whose father is a patient in a tuberculosis sanatorium. It may be continued during the father's convalescence after sanatorium care.

Father in Penal Institution. If the father is in a penal institution the mother is not eligible unless the father is, on medical certificate, totally and permanently incapacitated.

Divorced or Separated Parents. Marital status is not a basic condition of eligibility and therefore enrolment can be considered when other eligibility requirements are met and the divorced or separated father is deceased or totally and permanently disabled.

Deserted Wife. If the father is absent for a continuous period of four years or more, and his whereabouts are unknown, the mother and children may be eligible provided that the children have been in receipt of municipal assistance for a considerable period prior to application.

Unmarried Mother. An allowance may be paid on behalf of a child born out of wedlock if the conditions of eligibility regarding the decease or disability of the father are met; otherwise an allowance may be paid with the approval of the Minister.

Foster Parent. If the mother who would otherwise be eligible is not living, or is confined to a hospital for mental diseases, or is physically or mentally incapacitated, the allowance may be paid to any person authorized by the Director to have the care and custody of the child or children. The mother may be required to accept institutional or medical care if she is suffering from a disease that is likely to endanger the health of her children.

ELIGIBILITY: GENERAL CONDITIONS

CHARACTER

The mother must be of good moral character.

Third Party Administration. The Director may appoint a person to administer, under supervision, the allowance for the mother if she is not of good moral character or if, in his discretion, such action would be in the best interests of the beneficiaries.

NATIONALITY

The child must have been born in Canada or the father must be a British subject. If the father is dead, the mother must be a British subject. If both parents are dead, the parent who died last must have been a British subject at the time of death.

RESIDENCE

The child must have been resident in the Province for at least two years prior to the death, confinement, or disability of the father. If the child has not resided in the Province, or has so resided for a shorter period immediately prior to the death, disablement, or confinement of the father, an allowance may be paid provided that the father had two years' previous residence in the Province, that the child is not eligible elsewhere, and that payment is recommended by the Director. In cases of desertion, the mother must have had legal residence in the Province at the time she was deserted by her husband.

The mother must live in the municipality in which she had legal residence at the date of enrolment unless she has received permission from the Director, approved by the Minister, to move elsewhere. Allowances are continued on behalf of children temporarily absent from home for purposes of education or for other sound reasons.

MEANS TEST

The total value of the assets including both real and personal property of the mother, father, or children, or all of them, insofar as they are available for the maintenance of the child or children, may not exceed $3000, excluding clothing, bedding, and furniture. If the assets are all cash, the applicant may, at the discretion of the Director, be required to pay them to the Director who will release enough to pay all current liabilities. A maximum of $2000 is held in trust for the beneficiaries, subject to any authorized disbursements, the balance of which is repaid at the time the allowance ceases. The residue of available assets is used for monthly payments for the maintenance of the child or children. If the assets are not all cash, the applicant, as a condition of enrolment, must agree to their being dealt with by the Director. On any property owned by a recipient of a Mothers' Allowance or her dependents, a lien may be registered. All moneys paid in allowance are considered as a lien against such property to the extent of the equity over $2000. If an estate is held on behalf of an orphan child by a guardian, the Director, at the time of application, appears before the court to obtain sanction for the administrator to disburse the estate of the child according to the requirements of the Child Welfare Act and Regulations.

In assessing need, income from other sources is considered, Unearned income, for example, dependents allowances, assigned pay, rent or crop shares from property, and certain pensions and allowances is generally totally deductible from the allowance. However, $5 per month of benefits received as Old Age Security, Old Age Assistance or Blind Persons Allowances are not deducted. Also, in all cases, unearned income may be allocated to any specific needs of the family over and beyond the regular budget provisions of the administration. Family allowances are not deductible. Earned income is separated into deductible and non-deductible portions. Thus $20 a month of the mother's earnings are non-deductible from the allowance she would otherwise receive. Children earning and living at home are expected to contribute 50 per cent of earnings over $55 monthly; the other 50 per cent is non-deductible.

ELIGIBILITY: EXCEPTIONAL CASES

In cases of exceptional need, a child who has not established eligibility under the terms of the Act may receive an allowance at the discretion of the Minister.

RATES OF ALLOWANCE

The maximum monthly allowance, excluding winter fuel, is $51 for a mother and one child. The allowance is increased for additional children in the amount of $10 for a child 1 to 6 years, $13 for a child 7 to 11 years, and $15.50 for a child 12 to 14 years of age, subject to deductions for the fourth and each additional child; $17.25 is paid for a disabled father living at home. The maximum allowance granted to any family is $150 per month, or if there is a disabled father in the home, $167. In addition winter fuel is provided for seven months. The amount of the allowance is determined in each case after consideration of all circumstances and is the deficit between the family resources and the budget schedule.

Where a bereaved and dependent child is committed to the care and custody of a children's aid society, the society under the provisions of Section 28(5) of the Child Welfare Act may not enforce the provisions of the maintenance order against the municipality. In these cases the Director on behalf of the Mothers' Allowances Program deals directly with the society and pays the society the per capita per diem cost of the society for ward care. In the case of the rural societies this is $1.35 per day and in the case

of the Winnipeg Society it is $1.70 per day. The Director expects annual reports from the society as to the development and progress of the child.

If a child is placed by the Department in a foster home, the foster mother is paid on the basis of the Department's foster home rates. In such cases the means test is applied to the child or the parents, not to the foster mother.

SUPPLEMENTARY ALLOWANCES

A supplementary allowance of up to $25 a month may be granted in cases of extraordinary need.

DISQUALIFICATIONS OR GROUNDS FOR CANCELLATION

The allowance may be cancelled if the mother is not of good moral charater; or if, after being advised, the mother retains male roomers, boarders, or guests in her home without written permission of the Director; or if the child or children are eligible for benefits in any jurisdiction outside Manitoba; or if they no longer fulfil the eligibility conditions; or if they move out of the Province, unless with the permission of the Director; or if the available assets exceed $3,000.

SPECIAL SERVICES

CASEWORK OR FAMILY COUNSELLING

Recipients are visited in their homes at least once a year by field staff of the Department and as the needs of the case require.

HEALTH SERVICES

Medical and Surgical. There is no formal plan under which health services are provided to recipients of Mothers' Allowances. In organized territories medical care, including dental, optical, and pharmaceutical services, is provided by the municipality on a discretionary basis. Beneficiaries may use certain services of municipal public health departments where these have been established. In

unorganized territories the Province provides medical care to beneficiaries: this is paid for on a fee for service basis. Amounts paid by the municipalities for medical, dental, and optical care may be recovered in part from the 500 thousand dollars fund established by the Province for the relief of social assistance costs of the municipalities.

Hospitalization. In organized areas beneficiaries may receive the hospital care available to needy persons at municipal expense. In unorganized territories the Province pays for hospital care.

STAFF TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

Applications may be considered under three classifications:

Student Social Workers. Graduation in Arts or equivalent; no experience in social work required.

Social Workers I. Graduation in Arts or equivalent or membership in the Canadian Association of Social Workers; graduation from a school of social work; no experience in social work required.

Social Workers II. Graduation in Arts or equivalent or membership in the Canadian Association of Social Workers; graduation from a school of social work; at least two years experience in social work.

RECIPROCAL AGREEMENTS

The Act does not provide for reciprocal agreements with other provinces.

S A S K A T C H E W A N

TITLE OF ACT

The Mothers' Allowance Regulations, O.C. 1497/53, subject to the provisions of Section 14 of the Social Aid Act, R.S.S. 1953, c. 241. The initial legislation "The Mothers' Pensions Act", became effective on February 16th, 1918, under the administration of the Superintendent of Neglected and Dependent Children.

ADMINISTRATION

The Mothers' Allowances program is administered by the Public Assistance Branch of the Department of Social Welfare and Rehabilitation. The Director of Public Assistance is responsible for carrying out the provisions of the Act and Regulations. He supervises the investigation of applications and advises the Social Welfare Board regarding eligibility and amount of allowance to be paid in each case.1/ No allowance can be paid, amended or withdrawn without the approval of the Board. Applications are made to the office of the Director or to a regional or area office of the Department. In those welfare regions where the organization has been fully developed, all processing, assessing and completion of applications are done in the region, payment only being made from the central office. Applications are investigated by field staff of the Department who, working from regional or district offices, provide services as well to recipients under the other public assistance programs.

FINANCING

The costs of administration and of allowances are paid entirely by the Province.

1/ The Social Welfare Board established under the Department of Social Welfare and Rehabilitation Act, 1949, advises the Minister on matters pertaining to social welfare and rehabilitation and performs other duties as designated. The Deputy Minister of Social Welfare and Rehabilitation, the Director of Public Assistance and other departmental officers are members of the Board.

ELIGIBILITY: COVERAGE

Subject to the provisions of the Act and Regulations an allowance may be paid towards the support of a child or children if, by reason of necessitous circumstances, the parent or parents are unable to provide for their needs. Allowances are payable on behalf of adopted children and step-children.

CHILDREN

Basic Age. An allowance may be paid on behalf of children who are under 16 years of age.

Extension while Attending School. An allowance may be continued on behalf of children who are over 16 and under 18 years of age and are attending school or taking a business or professional course likely to enable the child to become self-supporting. In such cases payment of the allowance may be continued until June 30th of the school year in which the child becomes 18.

Extension for Handicapped Children. An allowance may be paid on behalf of children over 16 but under 21 years of age who are mentally or physically incapacitated and unable to earn their living.

MOTHERS

Widow. An allowance may be paid to a mother and her children if her husband is dead. The regulations provide, also, that if a mother and child are in a hospital approved under the Hospital Standards Act, payment of an allowance to her may be continued as long as the home is being maintained for their ultimate return. If the home is not so maintained and payments on behalf of the children are made to a guardian, the mother, nevertheless, does not lose her eligibility for health services.

Husband Incapacitated. An allowance may be paid to a mother and her children if the father is physically or mentally incapacitated and unable to maintain himself and his family and if the condition is such that it will last at least nine months. The father may or may not be living at home with his family. The father must be examined by a competent medical practitioner and his incapacity established

to the satisfaction of a medical referee, appointed by the Social Welfare Board, who may request a further examination at departmental expense. The Director may require re-examination from time to time and may suspend the allowance until satisfied that the father is incapacitated and unable to provide for his family. Social and financial reports are submitted with the medical report.

Husband in Mental Hospital. An allowance may be paid on behalf of a mother and her children while the father is a patient in a mental institution. Payment may be continued after discharge during a period recommended by the Director of the Medical Services Division of the Department of Public Health.

Husband in Sanatorium. A mother whose husband is in a sanatorium may receive an allowance for herself and her children while he is a patient and for such further period after discharge as is recommended by the Director of the Medical Services Division of the Department of Public Health.

Husband in Penal Institution. An allowance may be paid to a mother while the father of the children is serving a sentence of one year or more in a gaol or penitentiary and during a period not exceeding two months following his discharge.

Divorced Parents. An allowance may be paid to a mother who is divorced and who can show to the satisfaction of the Director of Public Assistance that she is unable to obtain full support from her divorced husband for his or her children.

Deserted Wife. An allowance may be paid to a mother if the father of the children has deserted the family for a period of not less than one year, and if a conviction for non-support or a court order for support has been issued against the father; or if the Director is satisfied that a reasonable effort to obtain adequate support has been made without success.

Unmarried Mother. For purposes of the Act a woman is considered a widow if, though not legally married, she was accepted as the wife of a man who had assumed responsibility for her children and who was a member of the family at the time of his death. Other unmarried mothers are also eligible for an allowance if an agreement approved by the Director of Child Welfare has been made with the father; or if the Director of Public Assistance is satisfied that a reasonable effort has been made to obtain adequate support from the

father without success, or if he is of the opinion that no effort should be made to obtain support from the father.

Foster Parent. An allowance may be paid to a guardian on behalf of children whose parents are dead, confined in a sanatorium, nursing home, hospital or mental or penal institution, or one of whose parents is dead and the other confined to a sanatorium, nursing home, hospital or mental or penal institution. For the purpose of the Act a guardian is defined as a relative or other suitable person, approved by the Director of Child Welfare who has accepted responsibility for the care and custody of the children.

FATHER

An allowance may be paid to a father while he is incapacitated and living at home with the children if his wife is deceased, a patient in a mental institution or sanatorium, is serving a sentence in a gaol or penitentiary, or has deserted the home.

ELIGIBILITY: GENERAL CONDITIONS

CHARACTER

The mother must be a fit and proper person to have the care and custody of the children.

Third Party Administration. If, in the opinion of the Director, an applicant is irresponsible or incapable of administering the allowance for the benefit of the family, the allowance may be paid to a trustee on behalf of the family.

NATIONALITY

There is no nationality requirement.

RESIDENCE

The applicant must be living in Saskatchewan at the time of the application and have resided in the Province for at least one year immediately preceding the application; or must have accumulated a total of 365 days residence

and not have acquired residence elsewhere. The recipient must continue to live in the Province with the children unless the Director is satisfied that it is in a child's interest and beneficial to his health or education to live elsewhere and that the allowance is being used for the maintenance and care of the child. If the recipient leaves the Province the allowance is suspended but if she returns within six months the allowance is resumed. The allowance on being resumed may also be paid for not more than three months of the absence in any calendar year. An allowance may be continued temporarily to a family living in Alberta or Manitoba in a municipality bordering on Saskatchewan.

MEANS TEST

The net value of the combined real and personal property which the mother, father or children may hold depends upon the size of the family. Thus for a mother and one child the net value of such property may not exceed $5,000 of which not more than $1,000 may be in cash, securities or other liquid assets. These amounts, that is the value of total property and the part of it which may be in liquid assets, are increased by $500 if there is a second child and $250 for each subsequent child, up to a maximum of ten children. If there is an incapacitated father living at home an extra $500 may be added.

Land owned by beneficiaries may not be transferred or conveyed without the written consent of the Director. This provision is intended to protect the interest of the recipient by preventing disposal of property without receiving fair consideration and no portion of the allowance is recoverable.

Children's monies which are available for distribution and are held in trust by the Minister of Social Welfare and Rehabilitation, the Official Guardian, the Administrator of the Estates of the Mentally Incompetent, or a trust company are considered cash assets, unless maintenance payments are being made on behalf of such children. In such a case the payments are considered income.

The Regulations provide that payment of an allowance be deferred until any real or personal property and liquid assets in excess of the amount permitted are exhausted: they must be so used up at a rate determined according to the Social Aid Maintenance Schedule or by such other necessary expenditure as may be approved by the Board. The property limitations test is not applied against a guardian.

With regard to current income the mother, together with the father and/or the dependent children, may have up to $540 per year as income from other sources and still be eligible for the maximum allowance. Children under guardianship care may have outside income not exceeding $300 per year if authorized by the Director. The allowance is reduced in proportion as the total annual income of the recipient exceeds her total allowable annual income, that is, the maximum allowance payable plus the total allowable outside income.

Income from other sources includes the net value of all income, gratuities and contributions, whether in cash or kind with the exception of family allowances, social aid payments, certain grants, and casual gifts, and payments on behalf of children placed by the Child Welfare Division. Old age assistance, old age security payments, blind persons allowances, income from real and personal property and the value of free board and lodging, for which no charge or only a nominal charge is made, are considered outside income.

Children earning and living at home are considered as boarders and roomers and the parent is subject to an income assessment in no case less than 15 per cent of the gross amount earned. Specified exemptions from income may be allowed for actual expenses when a parent is obliged to engage help to care for her children while she is working.

The amount of allowance granted is calculated on the basis of an assistance year; the monthly allowance for a partial year is one twelfth of the estimated annual entitlement. Except for income from regular seasonal employment and farm income, earnings received while an allowance is not in pay are not included as income in calculating eligibility for reinstatement.

RATES OF ALLOWANCE

The maximum monthly allowance for a mother and one child is $35 with $10 for the second and $5 for each subsequent child. The maximum is $85 for a family with ten or more children.1/ In addition $10 a month is granted

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1/ In Saskatchewan an increase of $5 per month per family will be effective April 1, 1955.

on behalf of an incapacitated husband living at home. The allowance on behalf of the incapacitated husband may be continued for a period not exceeding three months during his confinement in a hospital approved under the Hospital Standards Act.

If the father is living with the family but the mother is not, the maximum allowance payable is the same as that paid to a mother and her child or children.

If a guardian is appointed to receive the allowances on behalf of a child or children, the maximum amount payable is $25 a month for the first child, $10 for the second, and $5 for each subsequent child. If two or more guardians are caring for the children of one family, the total allowance payable is divided among the guardians in proportion to the number of children under the care of each.

SUPPLEMENTARY ALLOWANCES

Allowances are considered as partial assistance in meeting the needs of a family. Where the family does not have sufficient income for their requirements the local municipality may, under the Social Aid program, grant supplementary aid, the cost of which is shared by the municipality and the Province on a 50-50 basis. In unorganized areas the province assumes the full cost of any supplementary assistance granted.

DISQUALIFICATION AND GROUNDS FOR CANCELLATION

An allowance is cancelled if the mother remarries or when the recipient or other beneficiaries become ineligible under the Act. A recipient or guardian may be required to provide a school report signed by the teacher. The Social Welfare Board may suspend any allowance if it feels such action is necessary. When a mother remarries, the allowance may be continued on to the end of the month in which the marriage takes place.

SPECIAL SERVICES

CASEWORK OR FAMILY COUNSELLING

Casework and family counselling on a selective basis are provided by departmental field staff.

HEALTH SERVICES

Recipients of Mothers' Allowances and their dependents are entitled to health services under the Health Services Act, 1950 and the Hospitalization Act, 1948. These services are generally administered by the Medical Services Division of the Department of Public Health and are paid for by the Province. A Health Services card is issued to each recipient. Under certain circumstances services may be provided outside the Province. Health services are continued until the end of the calendar year for children 16 or over who cease attending school and become ineligible for an allowance; this provision provides medical protection during the initial period of employment.

Medical and Surgical. Through an agreement with the Saskatchewan College of Physicians and Surgeons, treatment and consultative services, including surgery, are provided for the holders of Health Services cards. Services of general practitioners and specialists are available in home, office, and hospital, with the Province paying the College $15 per year for each recipient including dependents.

Dental. Dental services including fillings, extractions, and dentures are provided through an agreement with the College of Dental Surgeons under which dentists are paid on a fee-for-service basis. The approval of the Medical Services Division is required before dentures can be supplied. A specific grant of $50 is paid towards the cost of a first set of full dentures.

Optical. Provincial payments may be made for optical services provided by optometrists, ophthalmologists, and general medical practitioners. Glasses are provided under the agreement with the provincial College of Physicians and Surgeons but ordinarily replacements are not made within a two-year period.

Pharmaceutical. Drugs and medicines are provided on a physician's prescription but 20 per cent of the cost is charged to the recipient. Where the physician certifies that this payment would constitute a hardship on the patient the Province pays the total cost. The Province, However, assumes the full cost of certain expensive drugs required over a long period of time.

Hospitalization. All benefits under the Saskatchewan Hospitalization Act are made available. Certain drugs are provided while the patient is in hospital. Out-patient

services are provided including physiotherapy, x-ray, and laboratory services. Premium payments are met by the Province.

Other. Special nursing and physiotherapy services are provided if approved in advance by the Medical Services Division; chiropody services are available as required.

STAFF QUALIFICATIONS

Junior field staff are required to have university graduation; case workers must be graduates of recognized schools of social work. Some in-service training is provided for field staff and junior staff members may be eligible for leave of absence to attend a school of social work with sufficient financial assistance from the Department to cover their educational expenditures.

RECIPROCAL AGREEMENTS

The Social Welfare Board may enter into reciprocal agreements with other provinces for the provision of aid to residents of those provinces in Saskatchewan and for prescribing rules governing residence not inconsistent with the spirit of the Social Aid Act. No reciprocal agreements have been made with other provinces, however, with respect to the payment of Mothers' Allowances outside of Saskatchewan.

A L B E R T A

TITLE OF ACT

The Mothers' Allowance Act R.S.A. 1942, c.302; amended by S.A. 1943, c.39; 1945, c.68; 1946, c.65; 1948, c.78; 1949, c.67; 1953, c.77. The initial legislation was passed in 1919, and the first payments were made in May, 1919.

ADMINISTRATION

The Superintendent of Mothers' Allowances, acting under the Minister of Public Welfare, is responsible for the administration of the Act. Application for an allowance is made to the inspector of the municipality in which the applicant has residence. Local inspectors are appointed under the Act by the municipalities. The inspector investigates the circumstances and reports to the Superintendent who assesses the need of the applicant, sets the amount of allowance, recommends to the Minister that the allowance be granted, and then notifies the municipality in which the applicant has residence. A municipality may appoint a person or persons to act in an advisory capacity to the local inspector and to assist him in maintaining contact with families in his district who are in receipt of Mothers' Allowances. Any change in status affecting eligibility must be reported to the Superintendent by the investigator. The Superintendent may also make a recommendation to the Minister regarding an allowance without having received a report from the local inspector; in that case he must notify the clerk of the municipality of his recommendation.

FINANCING

The Province pays out, in the first instance, 100 per cent of the costs from a special fund appropriated for the purpose. However, the municipality in which the recipient's husband had residence at the time of his death, committal or desertion is required to refund 20 per cent of the monthly allowance, not including the special bonus of up to $10 a month the cost of which is absorbed in full by the Province and is included in the maximum rates. The municipal share of the cost of allowances may be paid from the general tax fund of the municipality or from the levy of a special tax rate.

ELIGIBILITY: COVERAGE

Subject to the terms of the Act and Regulations an allowance may be paid to a woman who has in her custody one or more dependent children. It may be paid on behalf of an adopted child or step-child.

CHILDREN

Basic Age. An allowance may be paid on behalf of a child or children under 16 years of age.

Extension while Attending School. The allowance may be continued on behalf of a child over 16 but under 18 years of age who is regularly attending school and making satisfactory progress.

Extension for Handicapped Children. There is no provision for extending payment of allowances on behalf of mentally or physically handicapped children after they reach the age of 16 years or 18 years if the provision regarding school attendance applies.

MOTHERS

Widow. A mother may be eligible if her husband is dead and if he was a resident of the Province at the time of his death.

Husband Incapacitated. No allowance is granted to a woman whose husband is physically incapacitated. In such cases the family may be assisted under other legislation.

Husband in Mental Hospital. An allowance may be paid to a woman whose husband was committed to a hospital under the Mental Diseases Act at a time when he was resident in the Province. He must actually be an inmate of the institution.

Husband in Sanatorium or Penal Institution. A woman whose husband is a patient in a sanatorium or inmate of a penal institution is not eligible for an allowance.

Divorced or Separated Parents. A woman who has been divorced or legally separated is not eligible for an allowance.

Deserted Wife. A married woman who is declared by the Superintendent, subject to the approval of the Minister, to have been deserted by her husband without reasonable cause for a continuous period of at least three years immediately prior to declaration, may be granted an allowance. For purposes of the Act she is considered a widow.

Unmarried Mother. An unmarried mother may be eligible if she was living in marital relations with a man who was a resident of the Province at the time of his death and had so resided for a period of at least five years or more immediately before his death, and if she had borne children who are registered in his name.

Foster Parent. An allowance may be paid to any woman who, at the time she became a widow within the meaning of the Act, or at the time her husband was committed under the Mental Diseases Act, had in her legal custody a child or children under the age of sixteen years, or under eighteen years and making satisfactory progress at school.

ELIGIBILITY: GENERAL CONDITIONS

CHARACTER

The applicant must, in the opinion of the Superintendent, be a proper person to receive assistance.

Third Party Administration. There is no provision for the payment of an allowance to any person other than the beneficiary.

NATIONALITY

There is no nationality requirement.

RESIDENCE

The husband must have been a resident. Residence is considered to be the place where the husband actually had his home at the time of his death, desertion or committal, without any regard to the length of time the home had been established. Unless permission to move is granted, the beneficiary must live in the Province and within the boundaries of the municipality liable for payment of part of the allowance, and must live with her child or children.

However, an allowance may be paid on behalf of a child while he is temporarily absent from home for purposes of education or for other reasons, providing the allowance is used for the benefit of the child and he remains within the Province.

A woman who lived in Alberta for a period of 15 or more consecutive years and who thereafter made her home in another province and who returned to Alberta after the death of her husband may be eligible for an allowance after a period of one year as a self-supporting person.

MEANS TEST

The amount of cash assets and of real and personal property permitted is determined in accordance with the individual circumstances of applicants. No lien is placed against property.

An actual yearly income of $1200 or its equivalent, exclusive of Family Allowances and the Mothers' Allowance, is permitted. If the yearly income of the recipient exceeds this amount, the allowance is reduced by the monthly amount of income in excess of the $1200 allowed annually.

ELIGIBILITY: EXCEPTIONAL CASES

There is no provision for the granting of allowances to mothers not strictly eligible under the terms of the Mothers' Allowances Act but they may receive assistance under other statutory provisions.

RATES OF ALLOWANCE

The maximum monthly allowance payable to a mother and one child is $50, with an additional $20 payable for a second child, $15 for a third and $10 for each subsequent child. The maximum amount payable to any one family is $145 on behalf of a mother with nine or more children. An allowance of $60 per month may be granted to a woman with one child whose other income per year does not exceed $120. These rates include the special bonus of $10 per month paid entirely by the province. The actual allowance paid is set by the Superintendent who after consideration of each case recommends to the Minister a monthly amount that appears fit and just.

SUPPLEMENTARY ALLOWANCES

Municipalities of residence may grant additional aid in the form of public assistance, 60 per cent of the costs of which are reimbursed by the Province under the Public Welfare Assistance Act. In unorganized territories supplementary assistance may be granted by the Provincial Government. In special cases supplementary assistance may also be granted from a Benevolent Fund made up of monies provided by anonymous donors.

DISQUALIFICATIONS OR GROUNDS FOR CANCELLATION

If the beneficiary ceases to fulfil conditions of eligibility or moves from the municipality without permission, the allowance may be cancelled.

SPECIAL SERVICES

CASEWORK OR FAMILY COUNSELLING

Persons desiring counselling may communicate with the local inspector or the appropriate Branch of the Department.

HEALTH SERVICES

Medical and Surgical. Under agreement with the College of Physicians and Surgeons medical, surgical and obstetrical care are provided for recipients of Mothers' Allowances and their dependents. The Provincial Government pays the College $16.50 per year on behalf of each recipient and eligible dependent. The full cost is borne by the Province.

Dental. Dental services, including fillings, extractions and one-half the cost of new dentures, are provided under agreement with the Alberta Dental Association. The Province pays the Association $4.00 per year for each recipient and eligible dependent.

Optical. An optometrist may be consulted upon the recommendation of a doctor approved by the Director of Medical and Hospital Services. Replacements and repairs are the responsibility of the recipient unless these would constitute a hardship.

Pharmaceutical. Drugs are provided free only while the patient is in hospital.

Hospitalization. Hospital services are provided under an agreement with the Associated Hospitals of Alberta. These include public ward accommodation, prescribed drugs, the use of the operating room and anaesthetics, and certain other services. Admission to hospital must be recommended by a medical practitioner and approved by the Director of Medical and Hospital Services. The hospitals are reimbursed by the Province on the basis of a fixed schedule of per diem rates.

Other. Special services such as those of a nurse, physiotherapist, or chiropodist are provided to a limited extent when recommended by a physician and approved by the Director of Hospital and Medical Services.

STAFF TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

Candidates are selected on the basis of personal suitability; all members of the staff receive their training in the Department.

RECIPROCAL AGREEMENTS

The Act provides for reciprocal agreements with other provinces for the payment of allowances, but no such agreements are at present in effect.

B R I T I S H C O L U M B I A

TITLE OF ACT

The Mothers' Allowances Act, R.S.B.C. 1948, c. 225. The initial legislation, The Mothers' Pensions Act, was passed in 1920 and the first payments were made in July of that year. The Mothers' Pensions Act was repealed by The Mothers' Allowances Act of 1937.

ADMINISTRATION

The Act is under the jurisdiction of the Minister of Health and Welfare and is administered by the Director of Welfare within the Social Welfare Branch of the Department. An Advisory Board may be appointed by the Minister to make recommendations regarding the operation of the Act. The Board may consist of not more than five members, appointed for a period of three years, of whom the majority must be women. Appointment of the Board is not mandatory and no Board is functioning at the present time.

Applications for allowances are made initially to provincial district welfare offices or to municipal welfare offices and are investigated by a member of the provincial or municipal welfare staff. Applications and reports of investigations are forwarded to the Director, who is responsible for the final decision on eligibility and amount of allowance.

FINANCING

Costs of allowances and administration are paid entirely by the Province from special appropriations by the legislature.

ELIGIBILITY: COVERAGE

Subject to the provisions of the Act and Regulations an allowance may be paid to a woman who is unable to provide proper support for her children and who is the mother of, or has the custody of one or more children. An adoptive mother, step-mother or grandmother may also be eligible.

CHILDREN

Basic Age. An allowance may be paid on behalf of a child or children under sixteen years of age. If there is only one child the mother may, upon application, be required to provide a report on the condition of her health.

Extension while Attending School. An allowance may be paid on behalf of children between 16 years and 18 years of age who are regularly attending school and who are making satisfactory progress.

Extension for Handicapped Children. An allowance may be paid on behalf of children between 16 and 18 years of age who are physically or mentally unable to attend school.

MOTHERS

Widow. A widow may be granted an allowance providing her husband was resident at the time that the disability which caused his death arose in serious form.

Husband Incapacitated. A mother whose husband is totally disabled and unable to support his family may be eligible for an allowance. His condition must have arisen in a seriously disabling form while he was resident in the Province and must reasonably be expected to last for at least one year. The nature and probable duration of the disability must be certified by a qualified medical practitioner and approved by the Director of Medical Services. The latter reviews both the medical and social reports and advises the Social Welfare Branch on the possibility of providing remedial treatment to restore the man to employability. Follow-up examinations are made as necessary.

Husband in Mental Hospital. A woman whose husband is a patient in a mental institution and who was committed while a resident of the Province, may be eligible for an allowance. The allowance may be continued following discharge upon medical and psychiatric advice.

Husband in Sanatorium. The Act does not specifically provide for an allowance to a woman whose husband is a patient in a sanatorium. In such cases, however, the woman may receive an allowance as the wife of an incapacitated husband.

Husband in Penal Institution. A woman whose husband is confined to a federal penitentiary and who was committed while resident in the Province may be eligible for an allowance.

Divorced or Separated Parents. A woman who has been granted a divorce or separation may be eligible for an allowance if the court order granting divorce or separation has been in effect for at least two years prior to the date of her application. Her husband must have been resident in the Province at the time of the divorce or separation and all reasonable efforts to obtain support from him must have failed.

Deserted Wife. To be eligible, the applicant must have been deserted by her husband at least two years prior to her application for an allowance, and at a time when he was resident in the Province. To her knowledge, he must no longer be a resident, or own property in the Province, and all efforts to obtain his support must have failed. She may be required to make a complaint against him under the "Deserted Wives' and Children's Maintenance Act".

Unmarried Mother. An unmarried mother, who fulfils all other qualifications, is eligible if she cohabited with a man in the bona fide belief that she was married to him.

Foster Parent. An allowance may be paid to an aunt or older sister of a child or children if she has the care and custody of them and if the mother is dead or totally disabled, and herself would have been eligible.

ELIGIBILITY: GENERAL CONDITIONS

CHARACTER

The applicant must, in the opinion of the Director of Welfare, be a fit and proper person to care for her child or children and it must be in their best interests for her to receive an allowance.

Third Party Administration. The Act does not provide for the administration of the allowance by a person other than the beneficiary.

NATIONALITY

The applicant must be a British subject by birth or naturalization or must formerly have been a British subject.

RESIDENCE

The applicant must be resident in the Province, and must have had at least three consecutive years' residence immediately prior to the date of her application. For purposes of the Act 'resident in the Province' means that the person's main place of abode, to which she intends to return whenever absent, is in the Province. No one is considered resident during a period of absence exceeding six months.

The child must live with the applicant in the Province but an allowance may be paid in respect of a child temporarily away from home in order to take advantage of educational facilities not available in his home district.

MEANS TEST

The applicant or her dependents may not possess real or personal property, excluding necessary household equipment and wearing apparel, exceeding $500 or real property which is used as a home exceeding $2500 in assessed value above encumbrances. No lien is placed against property. All unearned income such as revenue from the sale of property, rental from suites and certain allowances and pensions is deductible from the allowance with the exception of a basic $10 exemption. With regard to earned income there is also a basic $10 exemption and an additional $10 may also be exempted for necessary expenses incidental to employment; forty per cent of the excess or balance is deductible from the allowance. Children earning and living at home are expected to pay board and contribute otherwise to the home, and seven per cent of their gross monthly earnings is deducted from the allowance. Earnings of children living away from home are not usually taken into account but if circumstances warrant, effort is made to encourage them to contribute to the home.

The same means test is applied to a foster mother, that is, an aunt or older sister if she is unmarried and herself dependent. If she is married a more lenient means test may be applied depending upon circumstances and other family responsibilities.

ELIGIBILITY: EXCEPTIONAL CASES

A needy mother not strictly eligible under the terms of the Act may receive similar benefits under the Social Assistance Act.

RATES OF ALLOWANCE

The statutory maximum allowance payable to a mother and one child under the Mothers' Allowances Act is $42.50 per month, with $7.50 for each additional child and for a totally disabled father in the home. This is increased by supplementation from Social Allowance funds which brings the actual maximum monthly allowance payable to $69.50 for a mother and one child with $14 for each additional child and for a disabled father living at home. A maximum allowance for a family is set but there is no limit as to the number who may benefit. The sum of $5 per month is deducted where the family own their home. Foster mothers receive the same benefits unless they are married and not dependent. The amount of allowance is determined after consideration of all circumstances and is such as the Director deems necessary to assist the beneficiary and her dependents.

SUPPLEMENTARY ALLOWANCES

Extra expenditures, such as needed repairs to the home and loss of possessions through disaster such as fire, may be met through Social Allowance funds. Extra assistance may also be granted through Social Allowance funds for special dietary extras, prenatal allowances, and housekeeper service. In cases of T.B., dietary extras for patient and contacts are provided, as well as rental overages, and insurance premiums and instalment payments on essential furniture purchased prior to application for an allowance. With the exception of prenatal allowances, the cost of supplementary aid for municipal cases is shared by the Province and the municipalities on an 80-20 per cent basis. The Province assumes the total cost of all prenatal allowances and of supplementary assistance to recipients without residence in organized municipalities.

DISQUALIFICATIONS OR GROUNDS FOR CANCELLATION

The allowance may be cancelled if the mother has ceased to be entitled to an allowance under the terms of the Act; or if, unless with the permission of the Director, the mother keeps a male boarder or lodger in her home or the mother or dependent owns a motor vehicle; or the child ceases to attend school.

SPECIAL SERVICES

CASEWORK OR FAMILY COUNSELLING

Counselling services are provided by the field staff of the Social Welfare Branch or of municipal welfare departments. Emphasis is placed on restoring families to a normal self-supporting way of life and on meeting their needs when members are incapacitated. Psychiatric and child guidance clinics may be used when necessary.

HEALTH SERVICES

Medical and Surgical. Under agreement with the B.C. Division of the Canadian Medical Association, complete medical, surgical, and obstetrical services, including home, office, and hospital calls by general practitioners of their choice, are provided to all recipients of Mothers' Allowances. Specialist, consultant, and diagnostic services and supplies are also available. For these medical services $20 per year is paid for each recipient of public assistance. In unorganized territory the Province pays the total cost. In organized territory the cost is divided between the Province and the municipality on an 80-20 per cent basis with each municipality paying in the proportion that its population bears to the total population of all municipalities.

Dental. Dental services are largely confined to extractions although fillings, prophylactic dentistry, and partial dentures may be supplied on special authorization of the Director of Medical Services. Dentures are supplied to those who have been without teeth for four months or less on the authorization of the District Supervisor. Ill-fitting or worn out dentures may be replaced on special authorization. For those without teeth four months or more, authorization for dentures may be approved by the Provincial Director of Medical Services. The cost of each service rendered is shared by the Province and the municipality of residence on an 80-20 per cent basis.

Preventive Dental Care. Dental treatment is available for all children under ten years of age who are dependents of persons in receipt of public assistance where preventive or school dental services or rural community dental clinic services are not otherwise available.

Such service may be given by any registered dentist who is willing to undertake the treatment. This program is a co-operative one between the Social Welfare Branch, the Division of Preventive Dentistry and the B.C. Dental Association. Payment of claims, approved by the B.C. Dental Association, is a total charge on the Province.

Optical. Complete optical services are available under an agreement between the B.C. Division of the Canadian Medical Association and the Province. Eye glasses may be obtained through members of the B.C. Optometric Association if a physician certifies that services of an optometrist only are required. Replacements are the responsibility of the patient unless this would impose undue hardship. The costs are shared on the same basis as for medical and surgical care.

Pharmaceutical. Prescribed and specially approved drugs are provided and the costs shared on the same basis as for medical and surgical care.

Hospitalization. Recipients of Mothers' Allowances and their dependents are eligible for all services provided under the B.C. Hospital Insurance Act. Benefits under the Act include public ward facilities, necessary operating and case room facilities, x-ray and laboratory services, both diagnostic and therapeutic, anaesthetics, and such other services, dressings and drugs as are prescribed under the Regulations.

Other. Surgical appliances are available on prescription of a physician. Transportation to treatment centres is provided if the physician certifies need. The costs are shared on the same basis as for dental services.

STAFF TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

Most of the staff are either graduates of universities or of recognized Schools of Social Work. In-service training is available to all staff and particularly to those who have not had the required formal training.

RECIPROCAL AGREEMENTS

The Lieutenant-Governor in Council may enter into a reciprocal agreement with any other province for the payment of allowances to residents of those provinces who are now living in British Columbia, provided all other conditions are fulfilled. No such agreements are at present in effect.

A P P E N D I X

CHART 1. PARENTAL CATEGORIES COVERED AND CONDITIONS OF ELIGIBILITY UNDER PROVINCIAL MOTHERS' ALLOWANCES LEGISLATION, DECEMBER, 1954[1/]

	Nfld.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.
Parental Categories Covered										
Widow	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Husband incapacitated	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
Husband in mental hospital	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Husband in sanatorium	X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X
Husband in penal institution	X	X			X	X		X		X
Divorced	X				X	X		X		X
Separated	X				X					X
Deserted	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Unmarried mother	X						X	X		X
Foster parent	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	2/	X
Father (if mother dead or disabled)	X				X			X		
Exceptional cases not otherwise eligible	X	X			X	X	X			
Conditions of Eligibility										
Proven need	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Character		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Nationality		X	X	X	X		X			X
Residence	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

1/ This chart provides only an indication of coverage. See Part II, Provincial Programs, for variation in definition of categories listed.

2/ Coverage of foster mothers in Alberta differs from other provinces in that the foster mother herself must be a widow or her husband must be committed to a mental hospital.

CHART 2. AGES OF CHILDREN ELIGIBLE FOR ALLOWANCES UNDER PROVINCIAL MOTHERS' ALLOWANCES LEGISLATION, DECEMBER, 1954

Age	Nfld.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.
BASIC AGE										
Under 15 years							X			
Under 16 years		X	X	X	X			X	X	X
Under 17 years	X									
Under 18 years						X				
EXTENSION WHILE ATTENDING SCHOOL										
Until end of school year in which 16th birthday falls		X		X						
Until end of school year in which 17th birthday falls							X			
Until 18th birthday						X			X	X
Until end of school year in which 18th birthday falls			X					X		
Until 21 while attending school or college or for other reasons	X				X					
EXTENSION FOR HANDICAPPED CHILD[1]						X	X			X
Until 18th birthday			X							
Until 19th birthday										
Until 21st birthday	X				[2]			X		

1/ Definitions of handicapped child vary somewhat from province to province. See Part II Provincial Programs.

2/ In Quebec there is no specified age at which incapacitated children become ineligible for an allowance.

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CHART 3 - MEANS TESTS UNDER PROVINCIAL MOTHERS' ALLOWANCES LEGISLATION, SHOWING INCOME AND PROPERTY ASSETS ALLOWED, DECEMBER, 1954

Prov	Liquid Assets or Personal Property	Income from Other Sources	Real Property	Lien
NFLD.	$750 liquid assets.	$360 per year. Amount of excess income is deducted from allowance. Exemptions to meet costs incidental to employment may be authorized. Family allowances and small casual gifts not considered income.	$5000 net value in rural communities. In urban communities allowance is not paid if value of real property is sufficient for proper care and maintenance of children.	None
P.E.I.	Information not available	Total allowable income including allowance depends on size of family; it increases from $900 for mother and one child to $1500 for mother with seven or more children	$5000 interest in estate situated in P.E.I.	None
N.S.	Cash or liquid assets to value of $1500. No allowance is paid if value of interest in real and personal property is sufficient for adequate maintenance of child	No set amount but considered in assessing need	No allowance is paid if value of interest in real and personal property is sufficient for adequate maintenance of child	None
N.B.	$1000 other than household effects. No allowance is paid if insurance policies in force on life of recipient or member of family money under which is not payable to a beneficiary or assignee for value and which has a guarantee loan value in excess of $1000.	No specified limit, each case considered on basis of need Limit on earnings of $60 monthly. Excess earnings deducted from allowance.	$5000 true value, free of encumbrances. No allowance will be paid if property has been transferred without adequate compensation within 2 years of application.	None
QUE.	$2000 other than household furniture and clothing	Recipients may earn up to $400 per year. Excess income deducted from maximum allowance Family allowances, gratuities, casual gifts, hospitalization are not considered.	Net equity (according to municipal evaluation) of $3000 where population 5000 or more; $2000 in smaller communities	None
ONT.	$1000 in cash bonds or other liquid assets Assets above $1000 must be applied to a series of future payments for the maintenance of the children	Considered in determining need on a budgetary basis Allowance subject to reduction where there are wage earning children living in the home.	Equity in real property up to $6000 unless used as a home by beneficiary and circumstances require that she live in it.	None, although beneficiary may be required to agree to terms re handling of property.
MAN.	Cash value of all assets available for maintenance (except clothing, furniture and bedding) must not exceed $3000 Applicant may be required to pay cash assets to Director who will release sufficient to pay current liabilities. Up to $2000 may be held in trust, the remainder going into the allowance	Of earnings of mother, $20 per month is not considered as income Children living at home are expected to contribute 50 per cent of earnings over $55 monthly, which is deductable from the allowance. Family allowances not treated as income.	Cash value of all assets that are available for maintenance (except clothing, furniture and bedding) may not exceed $3000. If assets are not cash, applicant must agree to their being dealt with by the Director.	All moneys paid in allowances may be considered as a lien against property to the extent of equity over $2000.
SASK.	Of total permitted assets of $5000 for a mother and one child, $1000 may be liquid assets, the latter increasing by specified amounts for each additional child and for a disabled father at home	$540 per year. Children under care of guardian may have $300. Excess income deducted from allowance Family allowances, certain other allowances and payments, and specified amounts for expenses incidental to employment not treated as income	Total permitted value of all assets for mother and one child is $5000. This may be increased by specified amounts for each additional child and for a disabled father at home.	None
ALTA.	Determined in accordance with the individual circumstances of applicant	$1200 per year or its equivalent. Income above $1200 is deducted from allowance Family allowances not considered as income.	Determined in accordance with the individual circumstances of applicant.	None
B.C.	$500 excluding household equipment and wearing apparel. Possession of motor vehicle without permission disqualifies applicant.	No set amount. $10 per month of unearned income, specified portion of earned income, and $10 per month for expenses incidental to employment are not considered as income. Children earning and living at home expected to pay board and small additional amount which is deducted from allowance. Children not at home encouraged to contribute if circumstances warrant. Family allowances not treated as income.	$2500 assessed value (above encumbrances) of real property used as a home.	None

CHART 4 - MAXIMUM MONTHLY RATES UNDER PROVINCIAL MOTHERS' ALLOWANCES LEGISLATION, DECEMBER, 1954

Province	Mother and One Child	Each Additional Child	Disabled Father at Home	Family Maximum	Supplementary
NFLD.	$25.00	$5.00	$10.00	$60.00 ($70.00 if incapacitated husband at home)	Up to $30.00 monthly if necessary for care and maintenance.
P.E.I.	$25.00	$5.00	No additional allowance granted	$50.00	None granted
N.S.	No set maximum, rates are based on average family income for community in which family lives		No special provision; included in budget on which allowance is based.	$80.00	None granted
N.B.	$35.00	$10.00	No additional allowance granted.	$80.00	Director may grant an additional $10.00 for rent if circumstances require it but only if allowance paid is below maximum.
QUE.	$35.00 (population under 5,000) $40.00 (population 5,000 or over)	$1.00 for 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th $2.00 for 6th, 7th $3.00 for each subsequent child	$5.00	None set (Minimum granted $5.00)	Those beneficiaries whose income and allowance are insufficient to meet their needs may obtain a special monthly allowance under the Public Charities Act. These allowances are paid through social agencies.
ONT.	$50.00 for mother and 1 child $24.00 for foster mother and 1 child	$10.00 $48.00 for foster mother and 2 children, with $10.00 for each additional foster child	$10.00	None set	$20.00 where need is apparent to the Director. A fuel allowance of up to $24 a month may be granted from September 1 to March 31.
MAN.	$51.00	$10.00 for child aged 1 - 6 years $13.00 for child aged 7 - 11 years $15.50 for child aged 12 - 14 years (subject to deductions for fourth and each additional child)	$17.25	$150.00 ($167.25 if disabled father at home)	Up to $25.00 where necessary. Fuel allowance granted for seven months.
SASK.	$35.00 for mother and 1 child $25.00 for guardian and 1 child	$10.00 for 2nd $5.00 for each subsequent child (with parent or guardian)	$10.00	$85.00 ($95.00 if disabled father at home)	The local municipality may grant supplementary aid under the Social Assistance program. Costs are shared between the Province and municipality on a 50-50 basis. In unorganized territories the Province assumes full cost.
ALTA.	$50.00 (An allowance of $60.00 may be granted when income or assistance does not exceed $120.00 per yr.)	$20.00 for 2nd child $15.00 for 3rd $10.00 for 4th to 9th	Not applicable	$145.00	Municipalities of residence may grant additional aid, 60 per cent of the cost of which is reimbursed by the Province. In unorganized territories the Province assumes full cost.
B.C.	$42.50 plus $27.00 from Social Allowance funds. Less $5.00 if family own home.	$7.50 plus $6.50 from Social Allowance funds.	$7.50 plus $6.50 from Social Allowance funds	A maximum is set but there is no limit to the number who may benefit	Extra expenditures for additional needs such as repairs and emergencies; also for dietary extras, housekeeper services, prenatal allowances and certain assistance to T.B. patients and contacts are met through Social Allowance funds. Costs shared by Province and municipalities on 80-20 basis but Province meets total cost of provincial cases and of prenatal allowances.

TABLE 1. FAMILIES AND CHILDREN ASSISTED UNDER MOTHERS' ALLOWANCES LEGISLATION AS AT MARCH 31, AND BENEFITS PAID DURING PROVINCIAL FISCAL YEARS 1949-54

Province	Families Assisted	Children Assisted	Benefits Paid[1]
	No.	No.	$
Newfoundland[2]			
1951	3,129	6,417	1,112,976[3]
1952	3,267	7,996	1,261,541
1953	3,017	7,875	1,217,401
1954	3,031	8,204	1,227,696
Prince Edward Island[4]			
1950	170	468	26,839[5]
1951	230	857	52,120
1952	225	627	59,668
1953	256	665	64,738
1954	261	665	66,413
Nova Scotia[6]			
1949	1,725	5,007	1,119,141[7]
1950	1,918	5,754	1,376,631[7]
1951	2,043	6,124	1,386,996[7]
1952	1,996	5,988	-
1953	2,405	6,667	1,405,765[8]
1954	2,313	5,975	1,444,934
New Brunswick			
1949	1,611	4,431	759,854[9]
1950	1,788	5,002	844,242[9]
1951	1,814	5,130	355,795[10]
1952	1,848	5,292	859,346
1953	2,066	5,947	1,225,263
1954	2,096	6,059	1,273,836
Quebec			
1949	15,714	43,999	5,239,327
1950	16,434	47,659	5,454,980
1951	16,915	49,054	5,623,847
1952	17,032	47,690	5,502,571
1953	18,250	52,925	7,482,521
1954	19,403	56,269	7,621,430

Note: For footnotes see end of Table.

TABLE 1. FAMILIES AND CHILDREN ASSISTED UNDER MOTHERS' ALLOWANCES LEGISLATION AS AT MARCH 31, AND BENEFITS PAID DURING PROVINCIAL FISCAL YEARS 1949-54 - Continued

Province	Families Assisted	Children Assisted	Benefits Paid[1]
	No.	No.	$
Ontario			
1949	6,815	14,388	4,535,343
1950	7,304	15,581	5,346,016
1951	7,382	15,885	5,546,054
1952	7,748	16,843	6,037,618
1953	7,621	16,798	6,431,229
1954	7,059	16,782	6,219,337
Manitoba			
1949	701	1,804	536,280
1950	786	2,073	606,009
1951	880	2,305	679,854
1952	932	2,482	783,184
1953	1,005	2,591	866,156
1954	1,099	2,848	1,006,507
Saskatchewan			
1949	2,555	5,984	1,068,598
1950	2,610	6,024	1,083,188
1951	2,690	5,979	1,106,506
1952	2,573	6,033	1,111,310
1953	2,424	5,815	1,328,884
1954	2,272	5,925	1,217,309
Alberta			
1949	1,392	3,032	650,692
1950	1,462	3,110	792,274
1951	1,503	3,191	836,469
1952	1,488	3,229	895,643
1953	1,524	3,360	1,048,758
1954	1,609	3,632	1,112,803

Note: For footnotes see end of Table.

TABLE 1. FAMILIES AND CHILDREN ASSISTED UNDER MOTHERS' ALLOWANCES LEGISLATION AS AT MARCH 31, AND BENEFITS PAID DURING PROVINCIAL FISCAL YEARS 1949-54 - Concluded

Province	Families Assisted	Children Assisted	Benefits Paid[1]
	No.	No.	$
British Columbia			
1949	681	1,445	389,347 [11]
1950	643	1,372	366,588 [11]
1951	569	1,206	332,494 [11]
1952	503	1,064	286,440 [11]
1953	470	1,009	260,87[6] [11]
1954[12]	426	953	247,000 [11]
Canada			
1949	31,289	80,431	[13]
1950	33,096	87,044	[13]
1951	37,155	96,148	[13]
1952	37,612	97,244	[13]
1953	39,038	103,652	[13]
1954	39,569	107,302	21,578,265

1/ Year ended March 31 unless otherwise indicated.
2/ Program became effective February, 1950.
3/ Fourteen months ended March 31; initial payments were retroactive to February 1, 1950.
4/ Program became effective June, 1949.
5/ Ten months ended March 31; payments began June 1, 1949.
6/ Figures on families and children show the numbers assisted during each year ending March 31.
7/ Year ended Nov. 30.
8/ Because of the change in fiscal year, figures are for 16-month period, Dec. 1, 1951 to March 31, 1953.
9/ Year ended Oct. 31.
10/ Because of the change in fiscal year, figures are for 5-month period, Nov. 1, 1950 to March 31, 1951.
11/ These figures do not include amounts paid as supplementation from social allowance funds. Such amounts were paid as follows: $56,580 in 1949; $71,353 in 1950; $64,055 in 1951; $128,980 in 1952; $150,577 in 1953; $141,000 in 1954. See text p. 14 and p. 77.
12/ Figures for 1954 are estimates.
13/ Benefits paid not totalled because of changes in fiscal years.

PUBLICATIONS IN THE SOCIAL SECURITY
AND THE GENERAL SERIES

Research Division,
Department of National Health and Welfare

I. SOCIAL SECURITY SERIES

✱ Memorandum No. 1. Mothers' Allowances Legislation in Canada. 1st ed. May 1949, 2nd ed. January, 1955, pp.

✱ Memorandum No. 2. Old Age Income Security in New Zealand. March 1950. 41 pp.

✱ Memorandum No. 3. Old Age Income Security in Australia. March 1950. 31 pp.

✓ Memorandum No. 4. Old Age Income Security in Great Britain. March 1950. 84 pp.

✓ Memorandum No. 5. Old Age Income Security in the United States. March 1950. 76 pp.

✓ Memorandum No. 6. Old Age Income Security In Selected European Countries. (Denmark, France, Sweden, Switzerland). March 1950. 83 pp.

O Memorandum No. 7. Social Security in Australia.

✱ Memorandum No. 8. Health Insurance in New Zealand. October 1950. 88 pp.

✱ Memorandum No. 9. Health Insurance in Denmark. (Revised) March 1952. 67 pp.

✱ Memorandum No. 10. Health Insurance in Sweden. January 1952. 76 pp.

✱ Memorandum No. 11. Health Insurance in Great Britain, 1911-48. March 1952. 163 pp.

O Memorandum No. 12. Health Insurance in Norway. Est. 60 pp.

O Memorandum No. 13. Health Insurance in the Netherlands. Est. 65 pp.

✓ Memorandum No. 14. Expenditures and Related Data for Government Health and Social Welfare Programs in Canada for Year Ended March 31, 1951. September 1952. 32 pp.

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II. GENERAL SERIES

/ Memorandum No. 1. Survey of Dentist in Canada. 2nd ed., January 1949, 45 pp.

A Memorandum No. 2. Survey of Physicians in Canada. 3rd ed., Sept. 1948, 4th ed., Sept. 1949, 5th ed., June 1951, 6th ed. April 1955, 36 pp.

A Memorandum No. 3. Survey of Welfare Positions: Report April 1954. 182 pp. and appendices

A Memorandum No. 4. Voluntary Medical Care Insurance: A Study of Non-Profit Plans in Canada, April 1954, 85 pp.

A Memorandum No. 5. A Study of the Functions and Activities of Head Nurses in a General Hospital. May 1954, 140 pp.

A Memorandum No. 6. Mental Health Services in Canada. July 1954, 207 pp.

A Memorandum No. 7. Changes and Developments in Child Welfare Services in Canada, 1949-1953. October 1954, 33 pp.

III. OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Bulletins prepared in collaboration with other Divisions of the Department or other agencies.

A Survey of Nursing Personnel in Manitoba, October 1952, 59 pp.

A A Suggested Methodology for Fluoridation Surveys in Canada, July, 1952, 51 pp.

A Dental Effects of Water Fluoridation, 1954 Report, August, 1954, 33 pp.

/ Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons. Background Data for the National Conference on Rehabilitation, Toronto, Feb. 1 - 3, 1951, 135 pp.

A Social Security Expenditures in Australia, Canada, Great Britain, New Zealand and the United States 1949-50 - A Comparative Study, February, 1954, 42 pp.

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Canadian Sickness Survey

v	Special Compilation:	No. 1. Family Expenditures for Health Services (National Estimates), May, 1953, 13 pp.
v	Special Compilation:	No. 2. Family Expenditures for Health Services by Income Groups (National Estimates), July, 1953, 13 pp.
v	Special Compilation:	No. 3. Family Expenditures for Health Services by Expenditure Group (National Estimates), September, 1953, 56 pp.
v	Special Compilation:	No. 4. Family Expenditures for Health Services (Regional Estimates), January, 1954, 23 pp.
v	Special Compilation:	No. 5. Volume of Sickness (National Estimates), April, 1954, 24 pp.
v	Special Compilation:	No. 6. Permanent Physical Disabilities (National Estimates), February, 1955, 15 pp.

M Available on request. / Out of print. O In preparation.

v Available from Queen's Printer, 25 cents a copy

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